TOMOMI YAMASHITA

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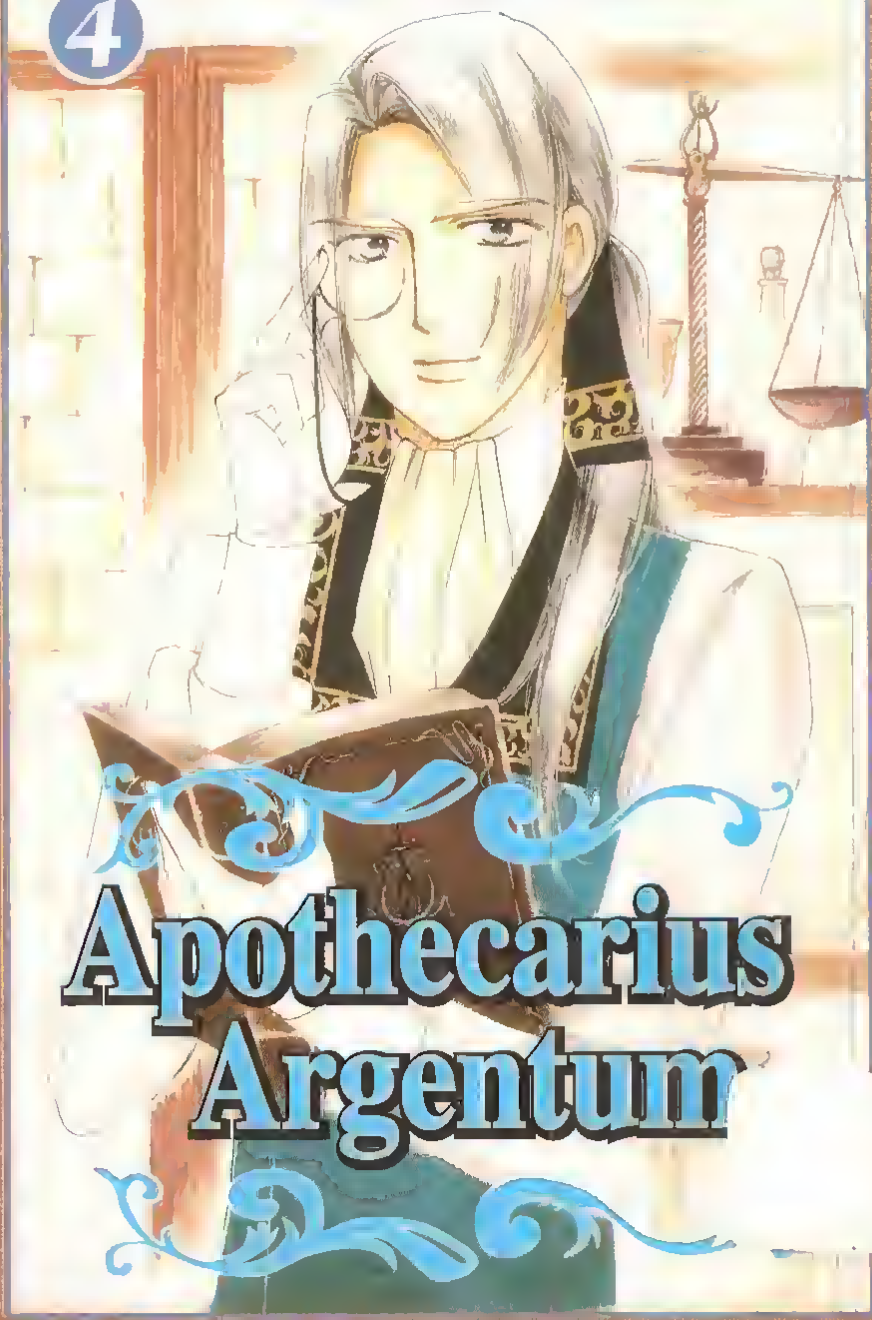
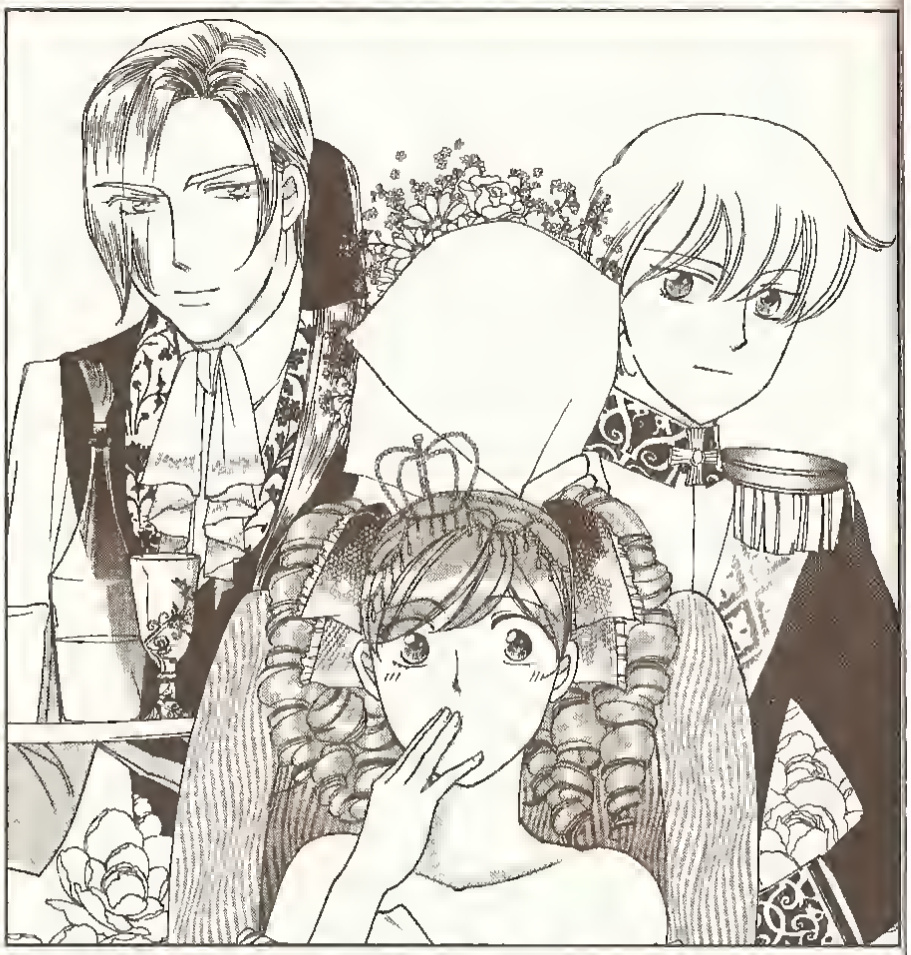


Apothecarius Argentum



Apothecarius Argentum

Volume 4

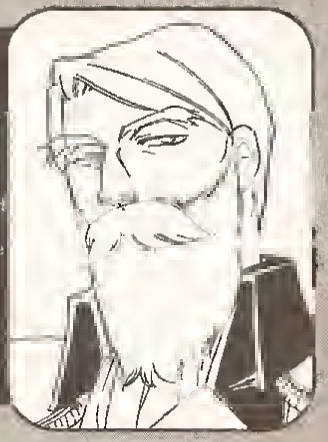
By Tomomi Yamashita

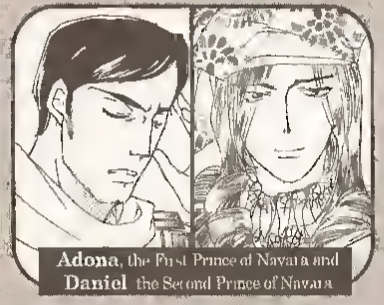
Infree
Lorca's bodyguard

Lorca
The Prince of Navara, a neighboring kingdom. He wants to marry Lady Primula.

Carbeau
Lady Primula's Martial arts Instructor

King of Beazol
He's known as a cold and ruthless King, but he loves his daughter dearly.





Adona, the First Prince of Navara and **Daniel** the Second Prince of Navara

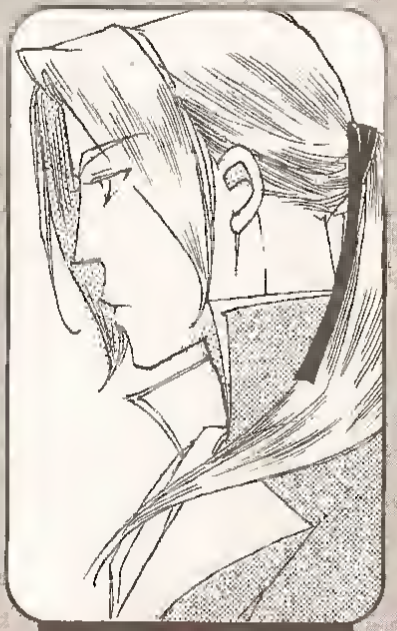
Argent was fed poison during his youth to turn him into the ultimate assassin. The King of Beazol bought Argent to be the food taster for his young daughter. However, the Princess freed Argent and instructed him to flee from the palace.

Several years later, Argent reappeared as a skilled healer and saved the Princess from an assassination attempt. As a result, he was promoted to the position of Royal Apothecary. Along with Soda, his apprentice, Argent works tirelessly for the people.

Suddenly, Prince Lorca from Navara crashed a party and proposed to Lady Primula! Unfortunately, Lorca was besieged by an unknown illness plaguing his country. To discover more about this mysterious disease, the Princess and her friends set out to Navara to find out for themselves...

Cast Of Characters

Lady Primula
The daughter of the King of Beazol. A strong-minded young woman, she's known as the "Princess of Steel."



Argent
The Royal Apothecary and Lady Primula's former food taster

Carli
Lady Primula's etiquette instructor

Soda
Argent's assistant and pupil

Apothecarius Argentum

Recipe 13 • The Princes of Navara

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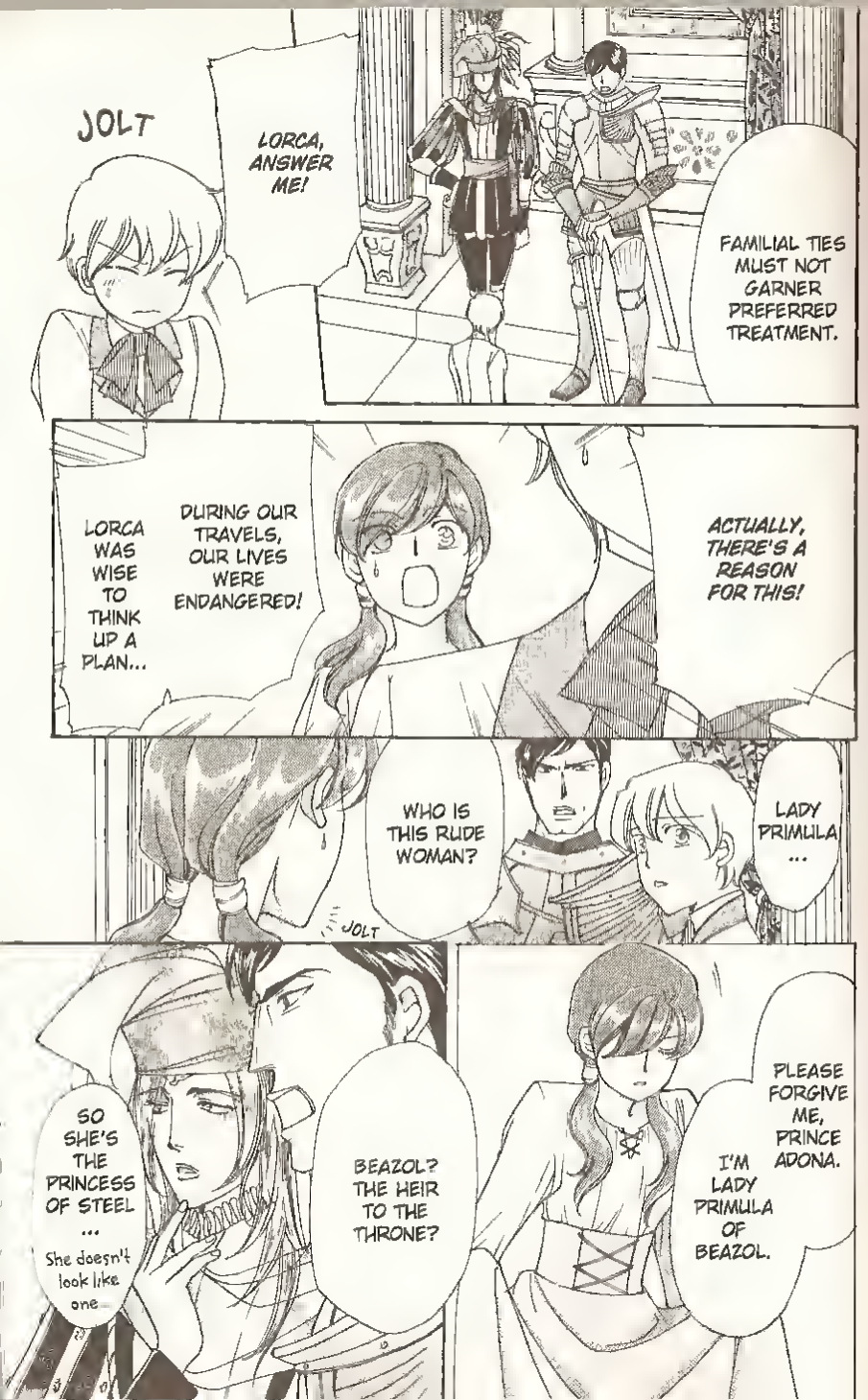

JOLT
LORCA, ANSWER ME!
FAMILIAL TIES MUST NOT GARNER PREFERRED TREATMENT.
LORCA WAS WISE TO THINK UP A PLAN...
DURING OUR TRAVELS, OUR LIVES WERE ENDANGERED!
ACTUALLY, THERE'S A REASON FOR THIS!
WHO IS THIS RUDE WOMAN?
LADY PRIMULA ...
JOLT
SO SHE'S THE PRINCESS OF STEEL ...
She doesn't look like one...
BEAZOL? THE HEIR TO THE THRONE?
I'M LADY PRIMULA OF BEAZOL.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, PRINCE ADONA.

Navara Palace
Navara is a kingdom that borders Beazol.
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD MEET YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AFTER A MONTH.
PRINCE LORCA...
First Prince Adona a.k.a. "War God"
Second Prince Daniel a.k.a. "Balladeer of Love"
WELCOME BACK, PRINCE LORCA.
DON'T BE SO HARSH, BROTHER. HE'S BACK SAFE AND SOUND.
USING OUR NAME AND TROMPING ABOUT WITH QUESTIONABLE PEOPLE!
YOU LEFT THE CASTLE WITHOUT PERMISSION,
THEY CARRY THEMSELVES LIKE ROYALTY!!
LORCA'S COMPLETELY NERVOUS ...
I'M SORRY. MY ACTIONS MUST HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS...
I can explain...

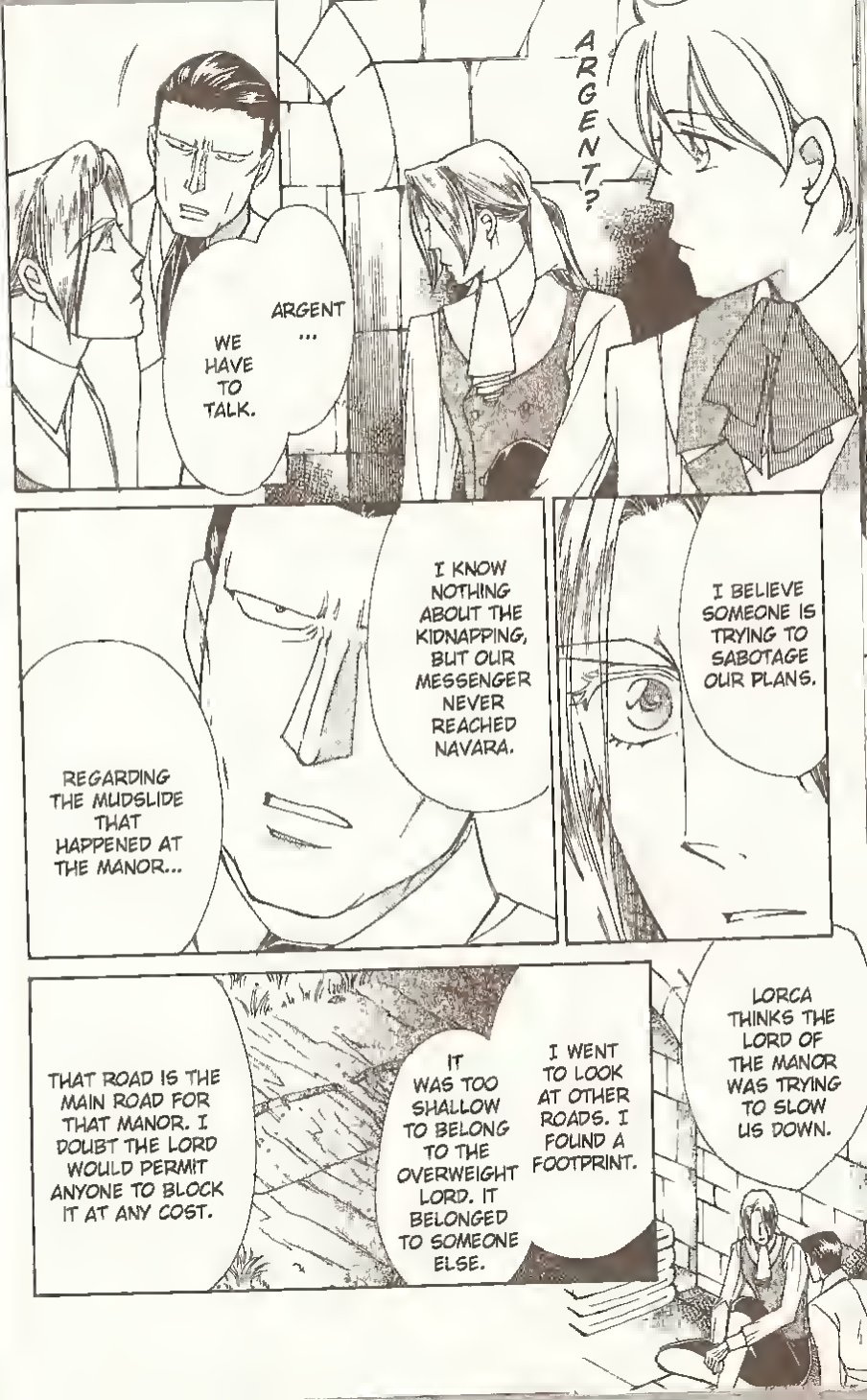
IMPRISON THE WHOLE LOT IMMEDIATELY!
THEY MUST BE QUESTIONED AS SUSPECTS FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF PRINCE ZESLAN!
IMPRISONED?!
HE'S PRINCE ADONA'S 6 MONTH OLD SON.
THE HEIR TO THE THRONE?
BROTHER! KIDNAPPING? WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!
YOU CAN GIVE US DETAILS DURING YOUR QUESTIONING TOMORROW.
THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE! I LEFT FOR BEAZOL TO FIND A CURE FOR THE PLAGUE!
QUESTION US? WHO IS PRINCE ZESLAN?
PEOPLE THINK YOU MAY HAVE KIDNAPPED PRINCE ZESLAN AND SOLD HIM TO THE KING OF BEAZOL.
YOU DISAPPEARED AROUND THE SAME TIME AS PRINCE ZESLAN.

WE RECEIVED NOTHING OF THE SORT!
WHAT?
MY FATHER, THE KING OF BEAZOL, SENT A MESSAGE. WE DIDN'T RECEIVE A RESPONSE, SO WE DECIDED TO PAY A VISIT.
I HEARD ABOUT THE SITUATION IN YOUR KINGDOM FROM PRINCE LORCA.
IT'S NOT THAT HE CHARMED ME---
IT SEEMS THE KING OF OUR ENEMY HAS CHARMED YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND.
LORCA ...
I SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE.
BROTHER, THE PRINCESS IS A VERY IMPORTANT GUEST OF MINE. PLEASE SHOW HER THE APPROPRIATE TREATMENT!
HE FEELS I WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR LADY PRIMULA'S HAND.
HE JUST TOOK A LIKING TO ME.

THANK YOU.
ME? BUT...
COULD YOU HOLD HER HAND TO KEEP HER WARM?
LORCA ...
IT WOULD BE MORE APPRO-PRIATE.
PRINCESS, PLEASE.
"A SECRET, ANCIENT, EASTERN ORGANIZATION RAISED, HUMANS WITH POISONOUS FLESH TO BE USED AS BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS."
...THAT CAN EAT AND HANDLE ANY POISON."
"HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT COME INTO CONTACT WITH OTHERS."

BROTHER!
FESS UP. THAT'S MY ADVICE.
HERE.
JOLT
ARE YOU COLD?
A LITTLE BIT.
I'M SORRY, MY LADY.
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BECOME HOSTAGES, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.
SHE MUST NOT GET ILL.
YOU HAD NO IDEA. I'M SURE THIS WILL GET STRAIGHT-ENED OUT.
SNEEZE!

I BELIEVE SOMEONE ELSE IS TRYING TO STOP OUR PRINCESS.
IT'S EITHER HOMEGROWN TRAITORS, SOMEONE FROM NAVARA...
OR A WILD CARD.
"I MAY BE BACK TO POISON YOU AGAIN."
COULD IT BE GARNA? HE WAS AN ASSASSIN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY...
WE MUST BE VIGILANT.
GOOD MORNING.
YAWN
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ


ARGENT?
ARGENT ...
WE HAVE TO TALK.
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING, BUT OUR MESSENGER NEVER REACHED NAVARA.
REGARDING THE MUDSLIDE THAT HAPPENED AT THE MANOR...
I BELIEVE SOMEONE IS TRYING TO SABOTAGE OUR PLANS.
I WENT TO LOOK AT OTHER ROADS. I FOUND A FOOTPRINT.
IT WAS TOO SHALLOW TO BELONG TO THE OVERWEIGHT LORD. IT BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
THAT ROAD IS THE MAIN ROAD FOR THAT MANOR. I DOUBT THE LORD WOULD PERMIT ANYONE TO BLOCK IT AT ANY COST.
LORCA THINKS THE LORD OF THE MANOR WAS TRYING TO SLOW US DOWN.

SLAP
YOU MAY BE MY BROTHER, BUT THAT WAS DISHONORABLE BEHAVIOR!
THIS IS PART OF THE QUESTIONING.
YOUR REACTION TO A CASUAL CARESS LEADS ME TO BELIEVE YOUR IDENTITY.
HOW DARE YOU!
!
MAYBE YOU'VE GAINED YOUR MONIKER BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A PRUDE?
LADY PRIMULA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SLUMP
PLOP
THAT'S ENOUGH QUESTIONING FOR TODAY!
GOOD NIGHT, EVERYONE!

I'D LIKE TO BEGIN RIGHT AWAY.
SNAP
BROTHER DANIEL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID?
STARTING TODAY, I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUESTIONING.
I'M RARELY AWAKE THIS EARLY. YOU SOUND DISAPPOINTED TO SEE ME.
UNLIKE PRINCE ADONA, I HEAR YOU'RE THE KIND BALLADEER OF LOVE.
I'M THE PRINCESS OF STEEL.
STROKE
LET ME HELP YOU UNDERSTAND.
YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD...
MY LADY...

EXCUSE ME, BROTHER ADONA.
WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?
I BELIEVE THE WOMAN IS THE PRINCESS OF BEAZOL.
I DIDN'T FIND OUT MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
I QUESTIONED THEM AS THROUGHLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT THEY'RE A TOUGH CROWD.
HOW IS LORCA?
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER AFTER ALL?
HE HASN'T HAD ANOTHER ONE OF HIS EPISODES YET. HE SEEMS FINE.
LADY LIZE!
YOU LOOK PALE. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
LIZE!
SWOON
EXCUSE ME. I JUST HAVE NOT BEEN SLEEPING WELL.
AFTER ALL, YOUR BABY SON IS MISSING. YOU MUST BE UNABLE TO REST.
I'M SO SORRY.

I WAS JUST... NOT EXPECTING THAT. I'M FINE.
WHY DON'T YOU HELP HER WHEN SHE NEEDS YOU!?
LORCA ...
YOU SHOULD RUB HER BACK UNTIL SHE FEELS BETTER.
STOP, LORCA.
ARGENT, PLEASE HELP HER.
I'M FINE. REALLY.
LADY PRIMU-LA?
KNOCK KNOCK
AGAIN?
FOLLOW STANDARD PROCE-DURES.
HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?
PRINCE ADONA, THERE WAS RIOTING AT SEAL VILLAGE.

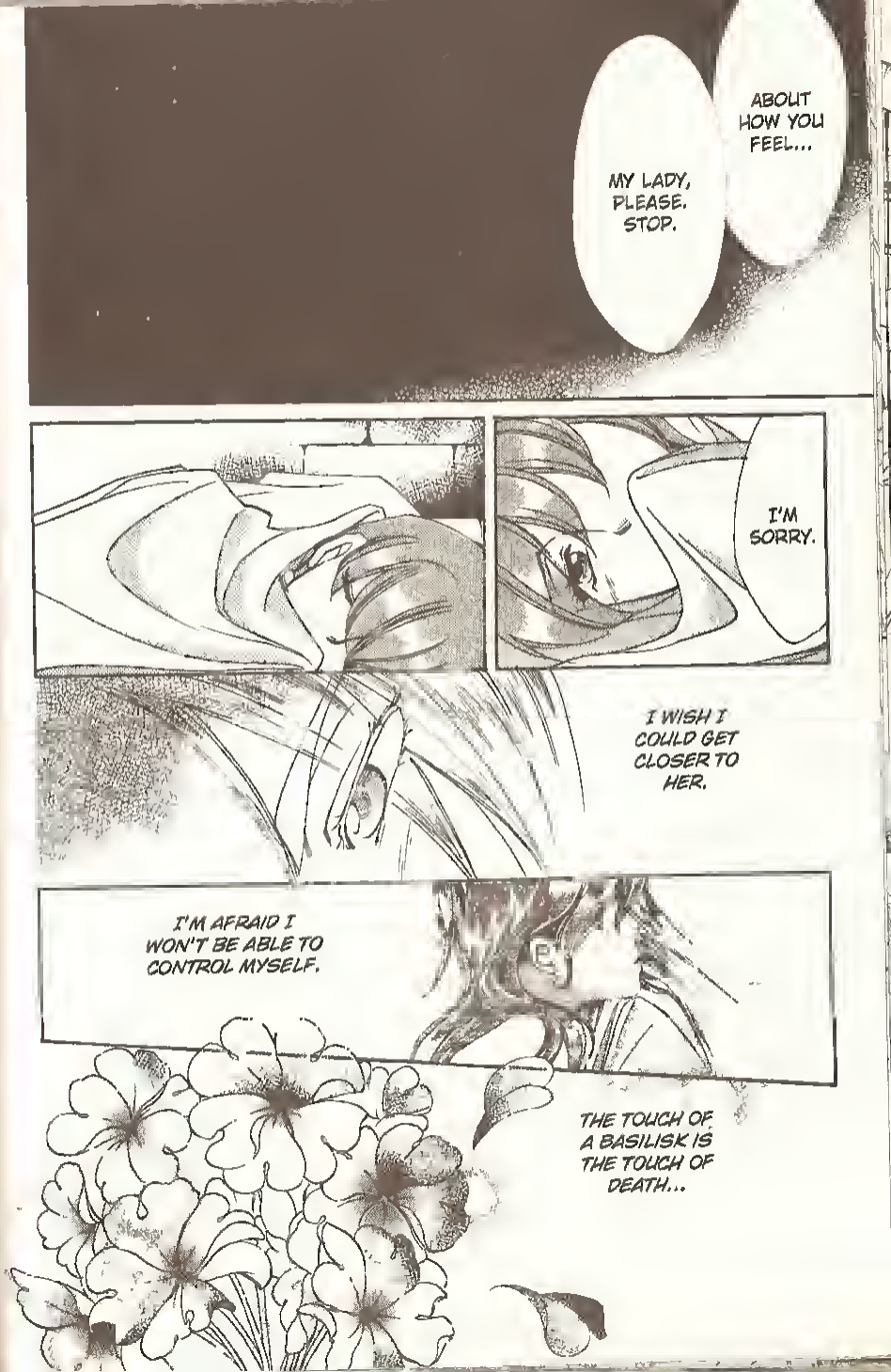
WHAT?
IN A WAY. THE KING GIVES OUT ORDERS AND BROTHER ADONA CARRIES THEM OUT.
IS HE ILL?
THE KING IS NOT GRANTING AN AUDIENCE TO ANYONE.
WE NEED TO TALK TO THE KING.
CLATTER
LOOK AT ME. I'VE GOTTEN BETTER...
IT'S NOT A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE! MY HEALER HAS DISCOVERED A PROBABLE CAUSE AND TREATMENT.
WE MUST PREVENT THE PLAGUE FROM SPREADING.
I DON'T THINK FORCING ILL PEOPLE INTO CONCEN-TRATION CAMPS WILL HELP THEM.
PLEASE TELL PRINCE ADONA THAT WE'RE HERE TO HELP NAVARA.

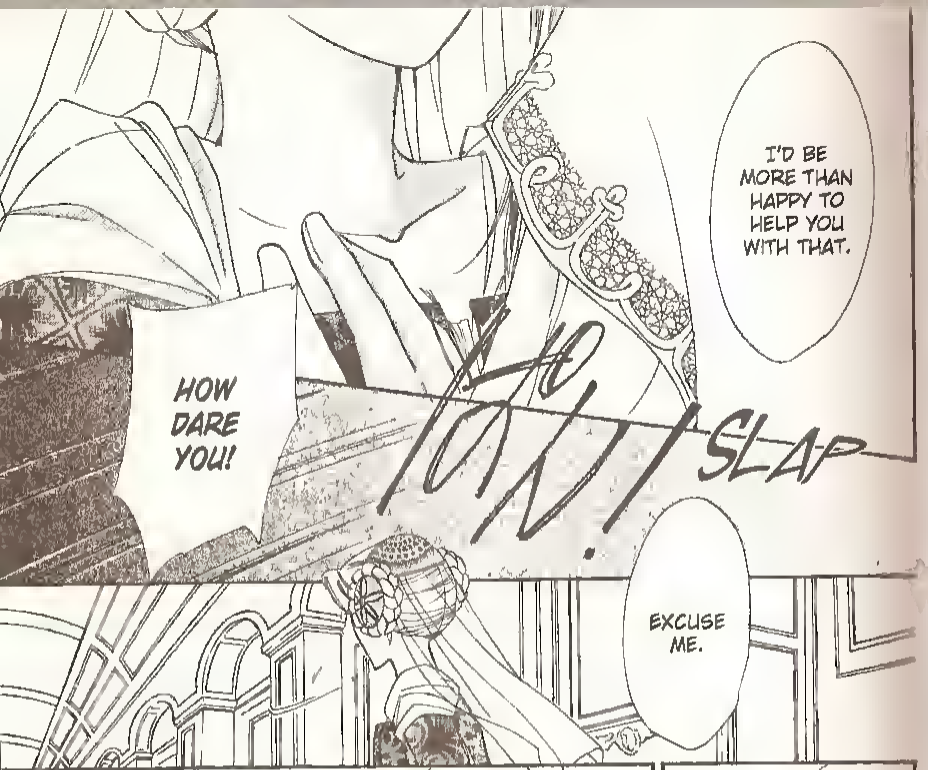
I'LL DO MY BEST TO FIND OUT MORE FOR THE SAKE OF MY LOVELY SISTER-IN-LAW.
...
Z
PRINCE DANIEL, IT'S BEEN 3 DAYS.
COULD YOU START WITH THE QUESTION-ING?
LORCA'S STILL NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED. YOU CANNOT KEEP HIM IMPRISONED.
BESIDES, WE ALSO HAVE A REQUEST.
THINGS COULD GET A LOT WORSE.
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?

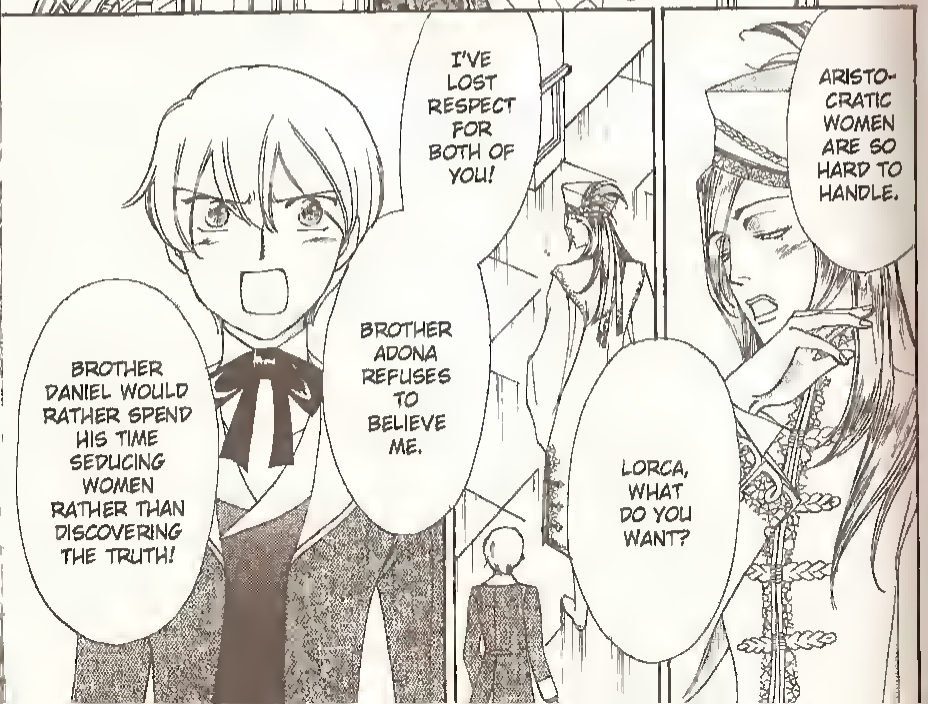
IT SEEMS COLDER NOW THAT WE HAVE FEWER PEOPLE...
IT'S CHILLY ...
YOU KNOW I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT.
I CANNOT HAVE ANOTHER DISGRACEFUL "EPISODE."
I'M COLD.
LADY PRIMULA, YOU SHOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE.

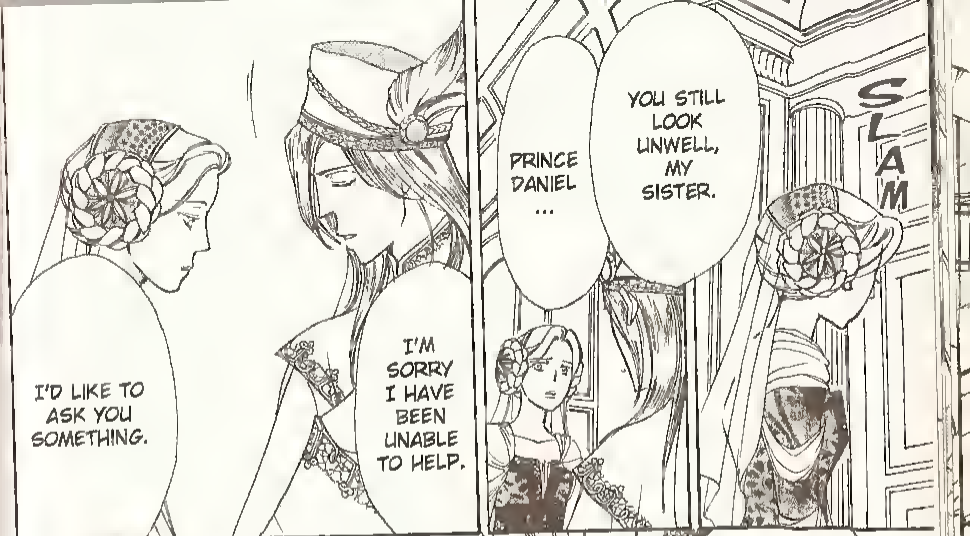
CLICK
WHAT? REALLY?
I KNEW IT.
LORCA, GO.
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, YOU CAN GO TALK TO ADONA YOURSELF.
I THOUGHT BY TAKING ON THIS POSITION, I COULD TAKE LONG NAPS IN PEACE!
DAMMIT, CAN'T YOU GUYS KEEP QUIET?!
I KNOW.
LORCA, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
I PROMISE TO CLEAR OUR NAMES FROM THIS MESS!
LADY PRIMULA!

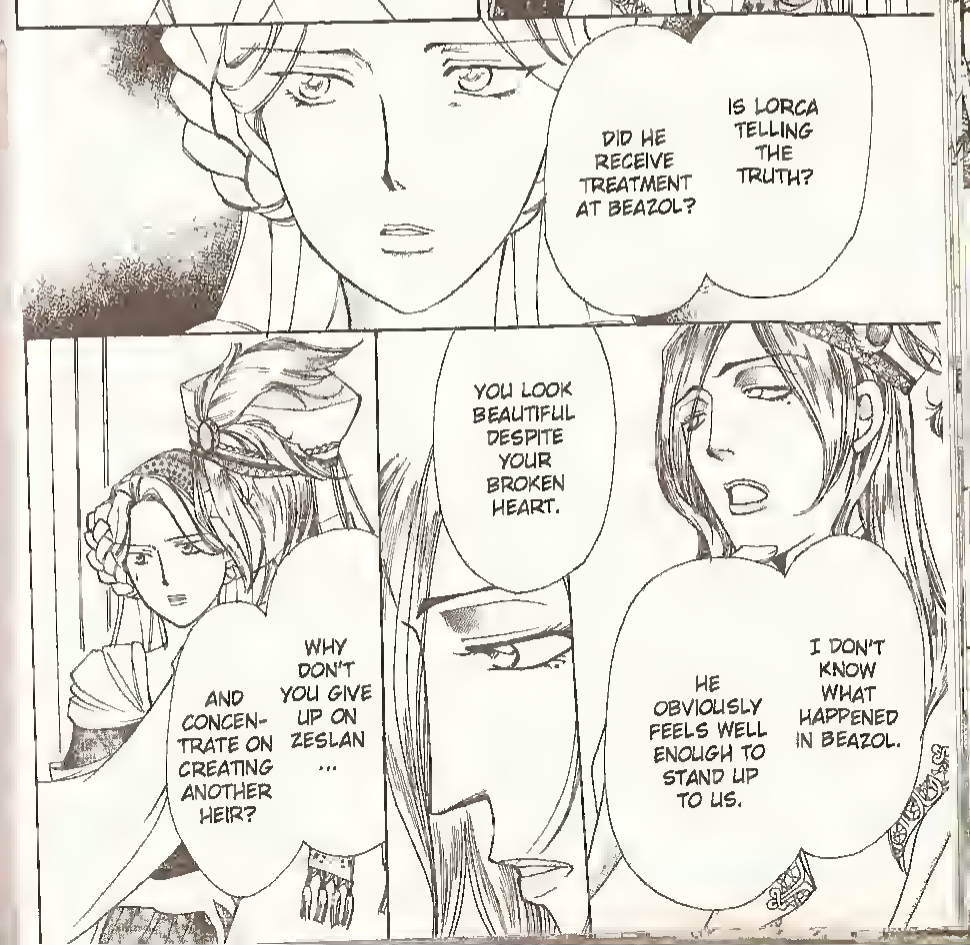
HOW LONG WILL I BE ABLE TO BEAR THIS...?
WHY WON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
THEY'VE CURED ME FROM ILLNESS! I'M LIVING PROOF!
IN FACT, THE PEOPLE FROM BEAZOL ARE OUR FRIENDS!
I TOLD YOU OVER AND OVER! WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ZESLAN'S DISAPPEARANCE!
BROTHER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WITNESS YOUR TREATMENT.

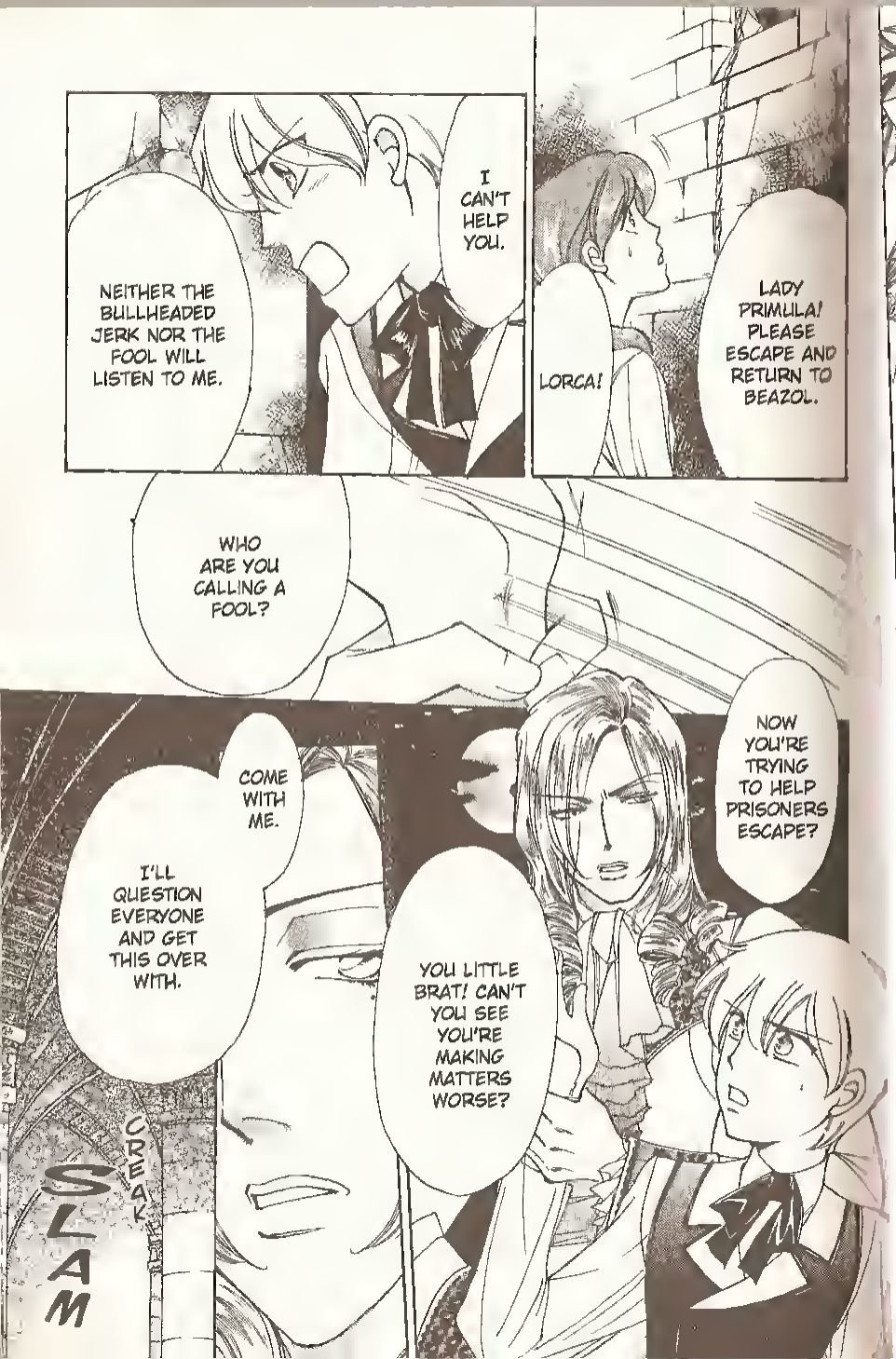

MY LADY, PLEASE. STOP.
ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL...
I'M SORRY.
I WISH I COULD GET CLOSER TO HER.
I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF.
THE TOUCH OF A BASILISK IS THE TOUCH OF DEATH...


I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP YOU WITH THAT.
HOW DARE YOU!
SLAP
EXCUSE ME.

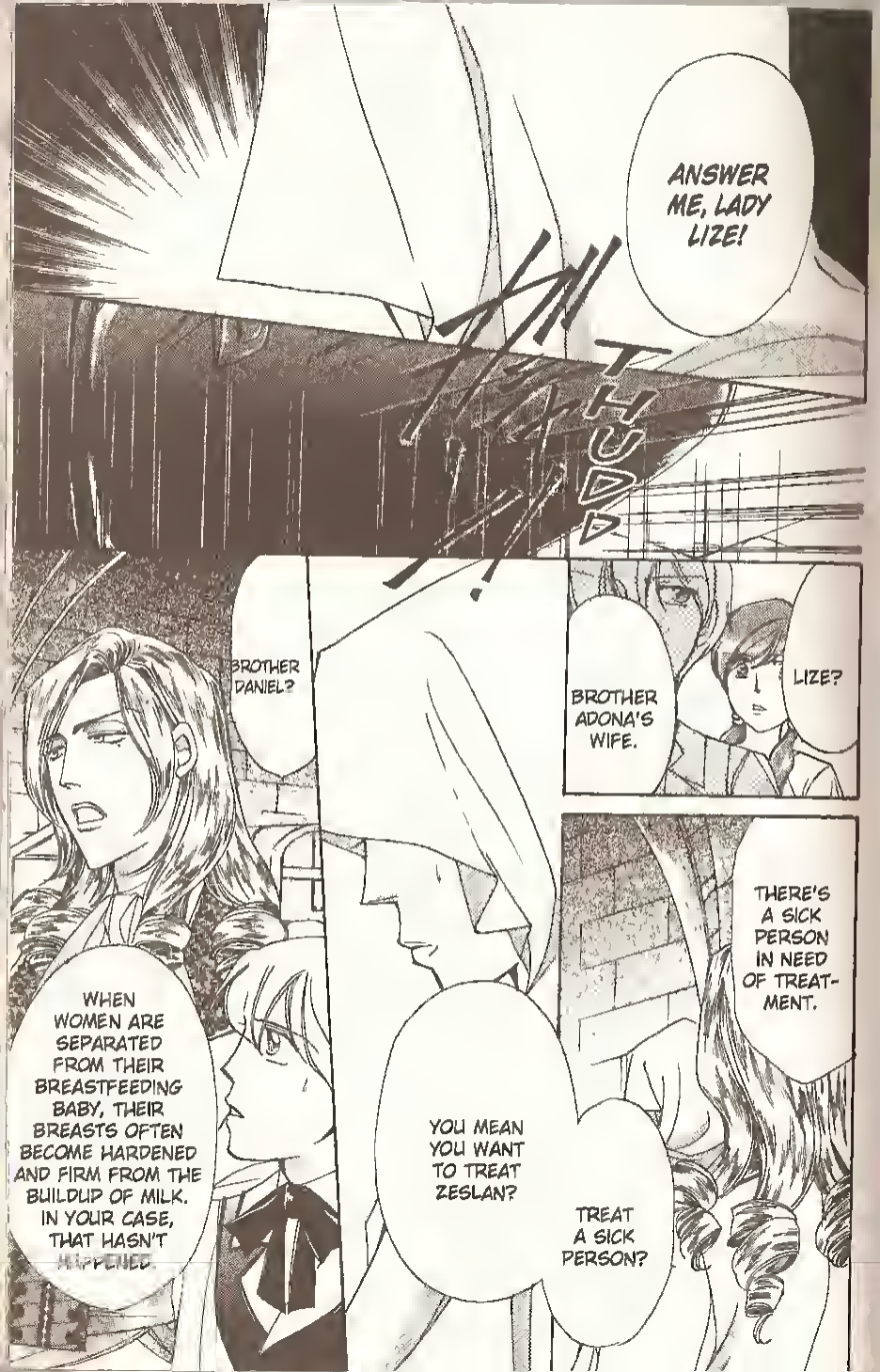

I'VE LOST RESPECT FOR BOTH OF YOU!
ARISTO-CRATIC WOMEN ARE SO HARD TO HANDLE.
BROTHER DANIEL WOULD RATHER SPEND HIS TIME SEDUCING WOMEN RATHER THAN DISCOVERING THE TRUTH!
BROTHER ADONA REFUSES TO BELIEVE ME.
LORCA, WHAT DO YOU WANT?


I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
I'M SORRY I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO HELP.
PRINCE DANIEL ...
YOU STILL LOOK UNWELL, MY SISTER.
SLAM

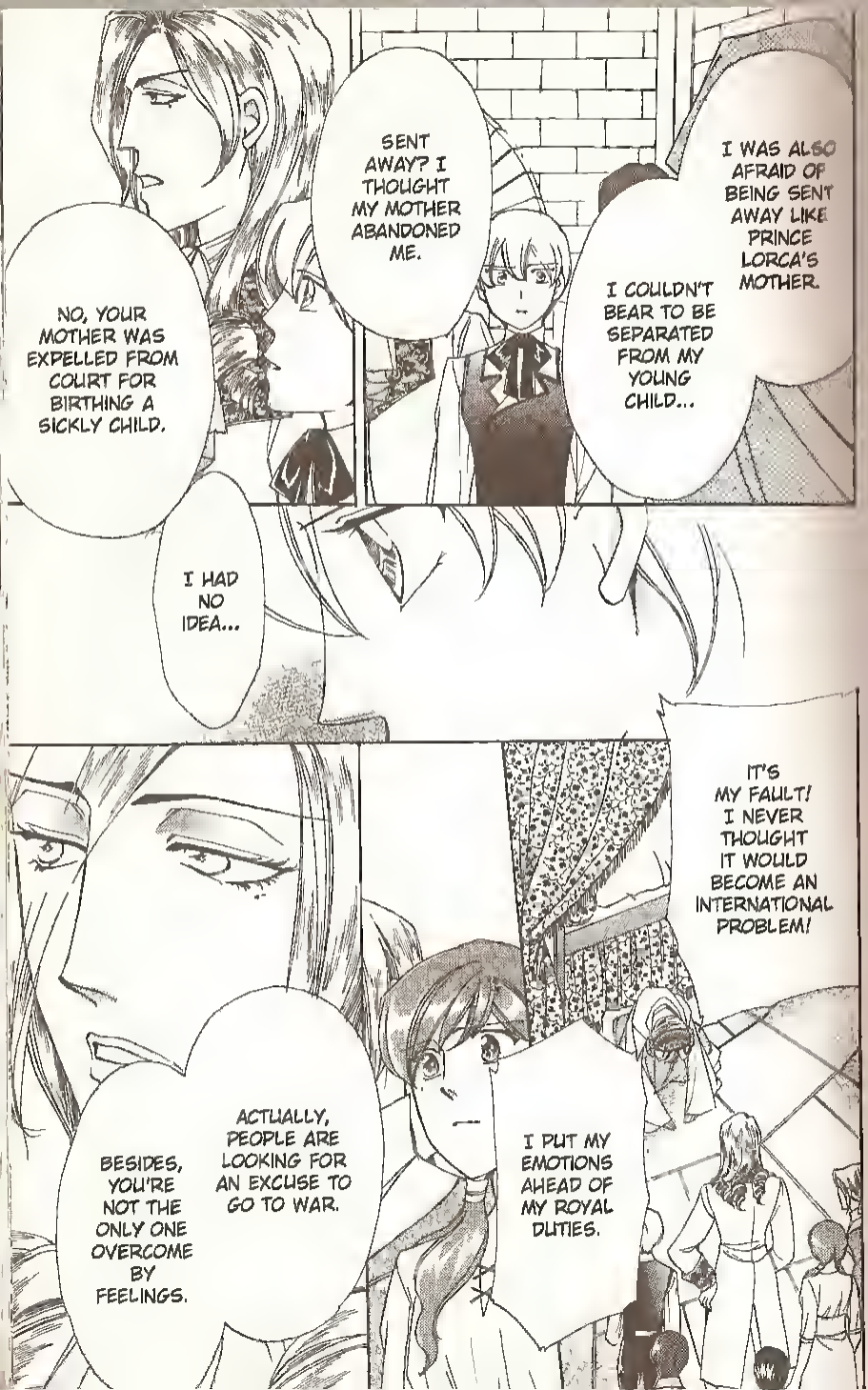

DID HE RECEIVE TREATMENT AT BEAZOL?
IS LORCA TELLING THE TRUTH?
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL DESPITE YOUR BROKEN HEART.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP ON ZESLAN ...
AND CONCEN-TRATE ON CREATING ANOTHER HEIR?
HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS WELL ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO US.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN BEAZOL.

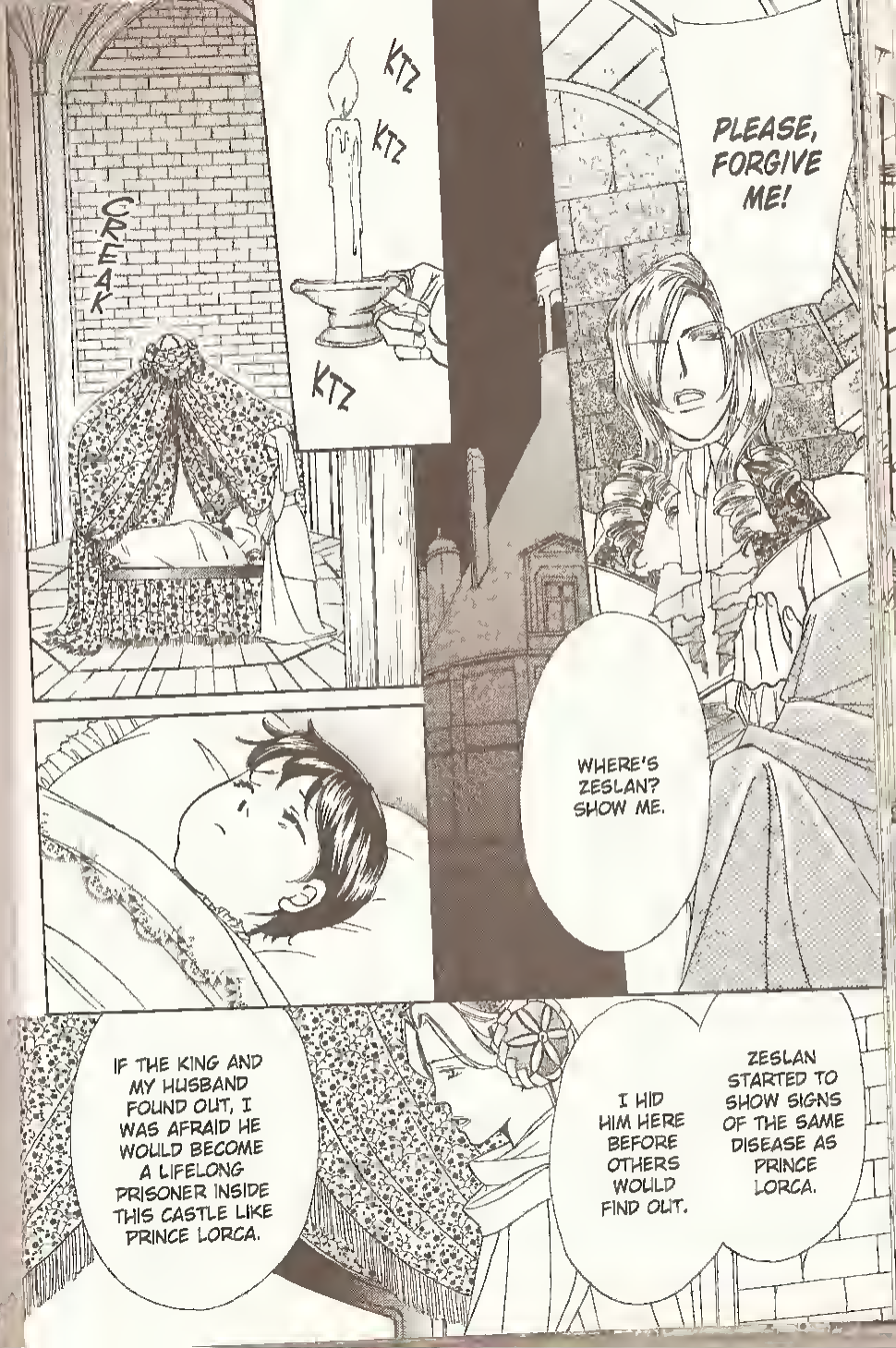

LADY PRIMULA! PLEASE ESCAPE AND RETURN TO BEAZOL.
LORCA!
I CAN'T HELP YOU.
NEITHER THE BULLHEADED JERK NOR THE FOOL WILL LISTEN TO ME.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A FOOL?
NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP PRISONERS ESCAPE?
YOU LITTLE BRAT! CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE MAKING MATTERS WORSE?
COME WITH ME.
I'LL QUESTION EVERYONE AND GET THIS OVER WITH.
CREAK
SLAM

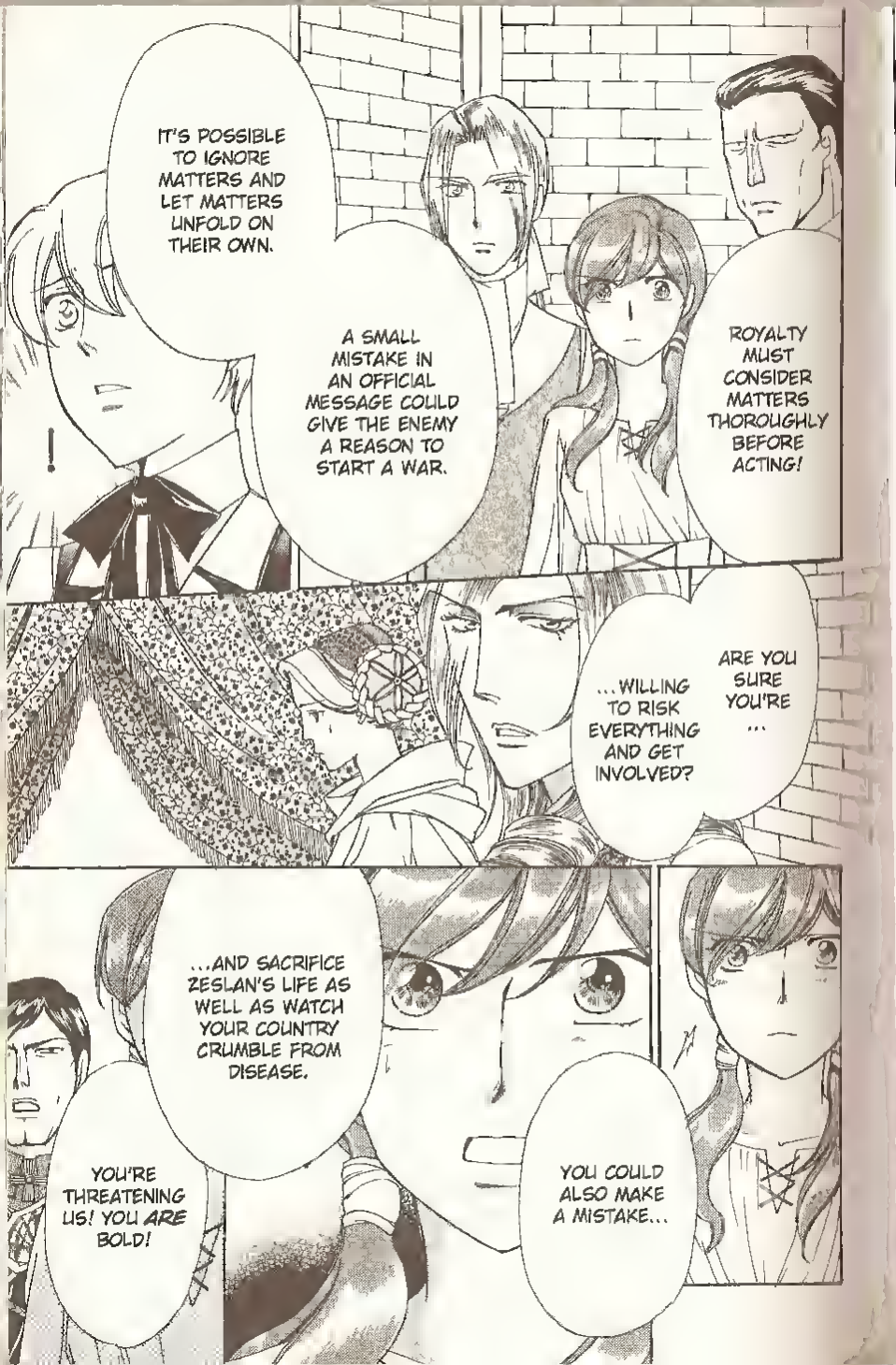
NO WONDER THIS KINGDOM'S IN A MESS!
YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN BETTER, HAVEN'T YOU?
JUST REMEMBER..
...YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM.
YOU'VE RUINED THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.
HOW? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
CHILDREN SHOULD NOT STICK THEIR NOSES IN ADULTS' AFFAIRS.
SLIDE


ANSWER ME, LADY LIZE!
THUD
BROTHER DANIEL?
LIZE?
BROTHER ADONA'S WIFE.
THERE'S A SICK PERSON IN NEED OF TREATMENT.
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO TREAT ZESLAN?
TREAT A SICK PERSON?
WHEN WOMEN ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR BREASTFEEDING BABY, THEIR BREASTS OFTEN BECOME HARDENED AND FIRM FROM THE BUILDUP OF MILK. IN YOUR CASE, THAT HASN'T HAPPENED.

BROTHER, ARE YOU...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STEAL MY BOOKS, ASK ME BEFORE YOU ORDER INFREE TO STEAL THEM.
QUIET NOW!
YOU'LL SEE A KEY PLAYER IN THIS WHOLE AFFAIR.
INFREE, YOU MAY BE A THIEF, BUT YOU COULDN'T GET IN HERE SO EASILY.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MOST PRECIOUS ITEMS ARE SECURED HERE UNDER HEAVY GUARD AT ALL TIMES. ONLY THE ROYAL FAMILY IS GRANTED ACCESS.
THIS IS THE TREASURY.
KIK KIK
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TAKE THAT BAG WITHOUT PERMISSION?
THAT'S A BAG BELONGING TO THE APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL.
THAT'S...


NO, YOUR MOTHER WAS EXPELLED FROM COURT FOR BIRTHING A SICKLY CHILD.
SENT AWAY? I THOUGHT MY MOTHER ABANDONED ME.
I WAS ALSO AFRAID OF BEING SENT AWAY LIKE PRINCE LORCA'S MOTHER.
I COULDN'T BEAR TO BE SEPARATED FROM MY YOUNG CHILD...
I HAD NO IDEA...
IT'S MY FAULT! I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM!
BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE OVERCOME BY FEELINGS.
ACTUALLY, PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO GO TO WAR.
I PUT MY EMOTIONS AHEAD OF MY ROYAL DUTIES.


KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
CREAK
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME!
WHERE'S ZESLAN? SHOW ME.
IF THE KING AND MY HUSBAND FOUND OUT, I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD BECOME A LIFELONG PRISONER INSIDE THIS CASTLE LIKE PRINCE LORCA.
I HID HIM HERE BEFORE OTHERS WOULD FIND OUT.
ZESLAN STARTED TO SHOW SIGNS OF THE SAME DISEASE AS PRINCE LORCA.

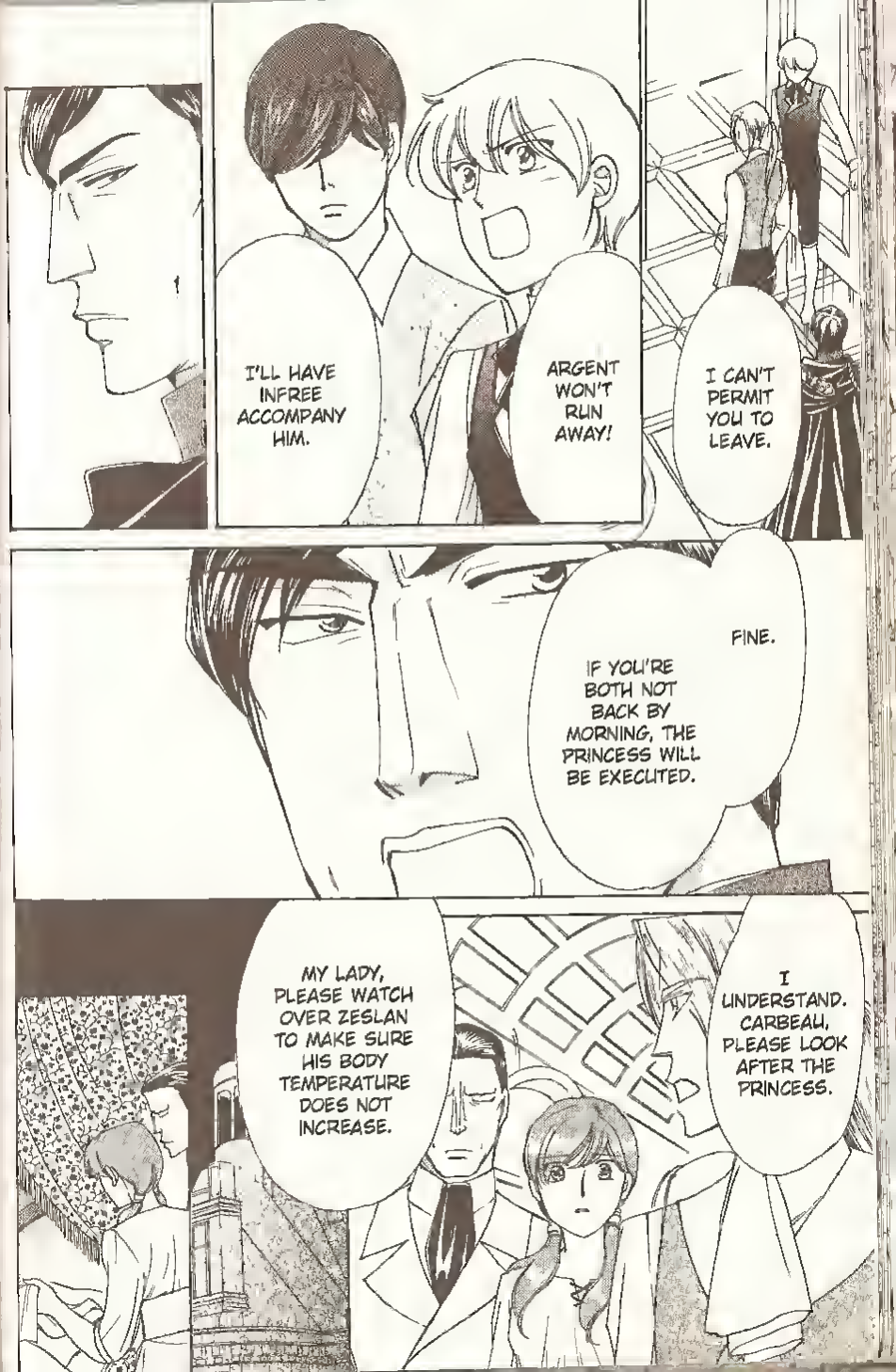

IT'S POSSIBLE TO IGNORE MATTERS AND LET MATTERS UNFOLD ON THEIR OWN.
A SMALL MISTAKE IN AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE COULD GIVE THE ENEMY A REASON TO START A WAR.
ROYALTY MUST CONSIDER MATTERS THOROUGHLY BEFORE ACTING!
!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ...
...WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING AND GET INVOLVED?
...AND SACRIFICE ZESLAN'S LIFE AS WELL AS WATCH YOUR COUNTRY CRUMBLE FROM DISEASE.
YOU'RE THREATENING US! YOU ARE BOLD!
YOU COULD ALSO MAKE A MISTAKE...

MY LOVE...
RIGHT, MY BROTHER?
I BELIEVE YOU TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THIS AFFAIR...
TO PROTECT YOUR WIFE AND CHILD.
OKAY, I'VE LISTENED TO ENOUGH TALKING!
SHOULDN'T WE BE TREATING ZESLAN FIRST?
WAIT!
ARGENT, PLEASE BRING TREATMENT RIGHT AWAY.
RIGHT!
THAT WAY, WE CAN PROVE THAT THE DISEASE IS NOT COMMUNICABLE!
PLEASE! THINK!
IF THE CHILD DIES AFTER BEING TREATED BY A HEALER FROM BEAZOL ...
IT WILL BE A PERFECT REASON TO START ANOTHER WAR!
SEE, YOU REALLY ARE A BUNCH OF CHILDREN.

THIS IS BELLADONNA
IT CAN HELP WITH SEIZURES, BUT IT'S HARD TO ADJUST THE DOSAGE FOR INFANTS.
THIS MIGHT BE A CASE OF OVERDOSE. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO INDUCE VOMITING...
SHOULD WE USE CHARCOAL AGAIN?
THE ACTIVE COMPONENTS OF BELLADONNA ARE EXCRETED FROM THE KIDNEYS. HE NEEDS TO BE GIVEN DIURETICS.
RUSTLE
DAMN, THE BOTTLE'S BROKEN.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN USE?
THERE'RE LIMITATIONS TO THE MATERIALS I CAN USE DUE TO HIS AGE.
IT WILL PROBABLY BE EASIER TO SEARCH OUTSIDE.
IF I COULD FIND SOME DANDELIONS ...
WAIT!
CREAK

I'M THE PRINCESS OF STEEL.
I'M CONFIDENT THAT ARGENT WILL CURE ZESLAN.
FINE. I GRANT PERMISSION FOR YOUR APOTHECARY TO TREAT MY SON.
THIS IS STRANGE.
HIS SYMPTOMS ARE DIFFERENT FROM LORCA.
HE'S LIMP WITH A HIGH FEVER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY? HAVE YOU GIVEN HIM FOOD OR MEDICINE?
I WAS GIVEN THIS MEDICINE AFTER EXPLAINING THAT ZESLAN SUFFERED FROM SEIZURES. I GAVE HIM A DOSE THIS MORNING.

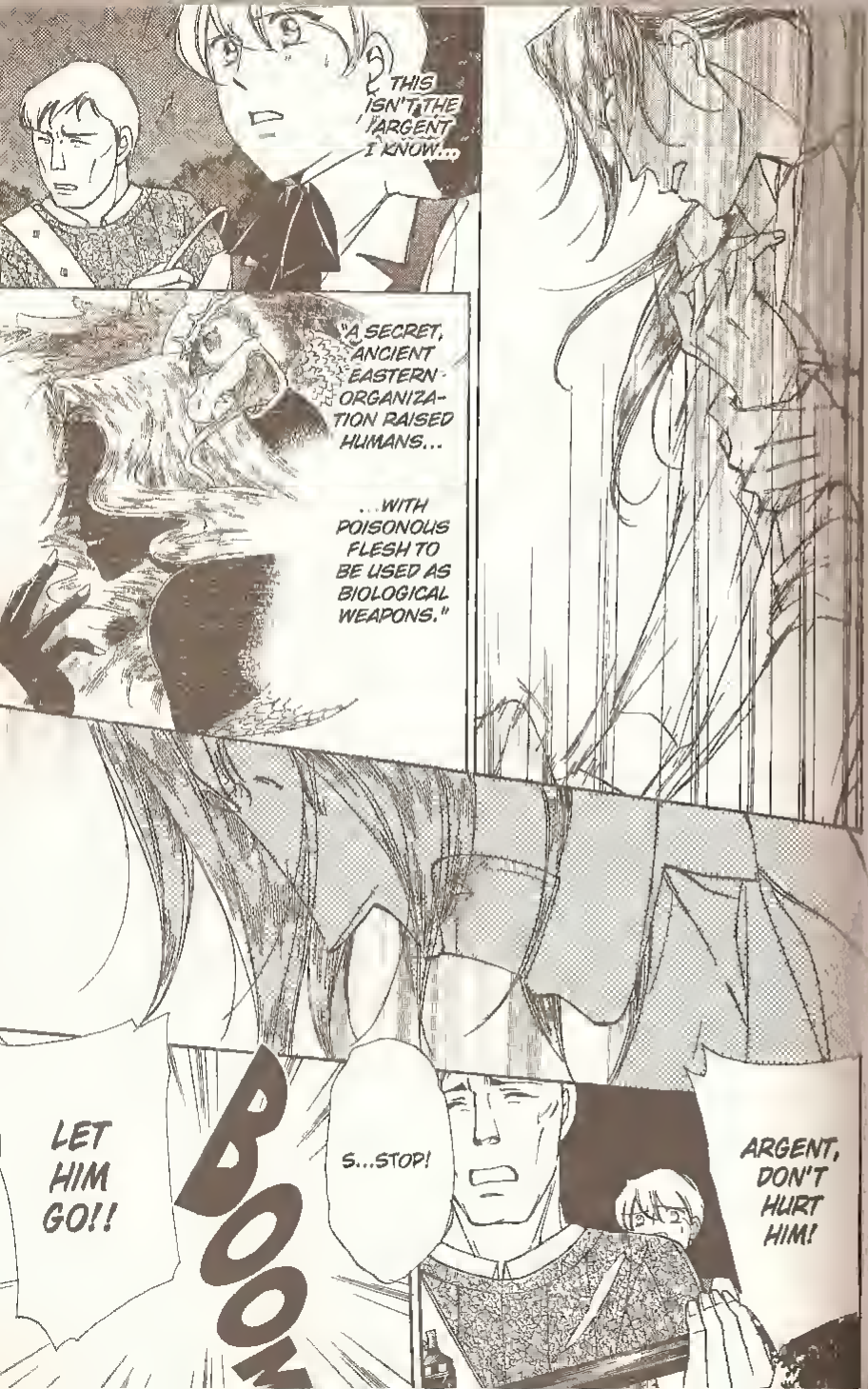
...USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE FOR ANOTHER CAMPAIGN.
I SUPPOSE YOU CAN...
YOU'RE RATHER CRUEL. YOU'RE AWARE OF THE CONDITION OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS.
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
WHINNY
THE LAND IS BARREN, JUST LIKE UBELLA SAID!
I CAN'T FIND AN HERB, MUCH LESS A BLADE OF GRASS!
UNBELIEV-ABLE ...


I'LL HAVE INFREE ACCOMPANY HIM.
ARGENT WON'T RUN AWAY!
I CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO LEAVE.
FINE.
IF YOU'RE BOTH NOT BACK BY MORNING, THE PRINCESS WILL BE EXECUTED.
MY LADY, PLEASE WATCH OVER ZESLAN TO MAKE SURE HIS BODY TEMPERATURE DOES NOT INCREASE.
I UNDERSTAND. CARBEAU, PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE PRINCESS.

ARGENT, LORCA...
I HOPE YOU RETURN WITH WHAT YOU NEED...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
LET'S GO BACK.
INFREE'S WAITING.
THIS IS A DANDELION? THEY'RE INVASIVE PLANTS. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STRUGGLING HERE
FOUND IT!
YES, MY PRINCE.
INFREE, PLEASE TAKE THE HORSES AND WAIT FOR US AT THE BASE OF THAT MOUNTAIN.
NO, I'LL GO WITH ARGENT.
I'LL COME WITH YOU!
WE MAY FIND SOMETHING BUT NOT ON HORSEBACK.
I'LL GO LOOK, WAIT FOR ME RIGHT HERE.
SO, THIS IS WHAT A CRITICAL SITUATION IS LIKE...
I WONDER IF I MADE THE RIGHT DECISION...
YES, MY LADY.
CARBEAU, I NEED FRESH WATER.

HERBS?
EVEN BETTER.
LIAR! WHAT'S THAT BAG?
IT'S MEDICINAL HERBS.
FOOD? I DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD.
WE NEED FOOD
COULD THEY BE SUFFERING FROM THE SAME DISEASE...?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP AND DIE!
WE GOT SHOVED INTO A CAMP. IF WE DEMAND ANYTHING, WE'RE PUNISHED.
HEH! WE HEARD THAT BEFORE.
I MUST LEAVE!
I'LL SEND MEN TO DELIVER BOTH FOOD AND MEDICINE.

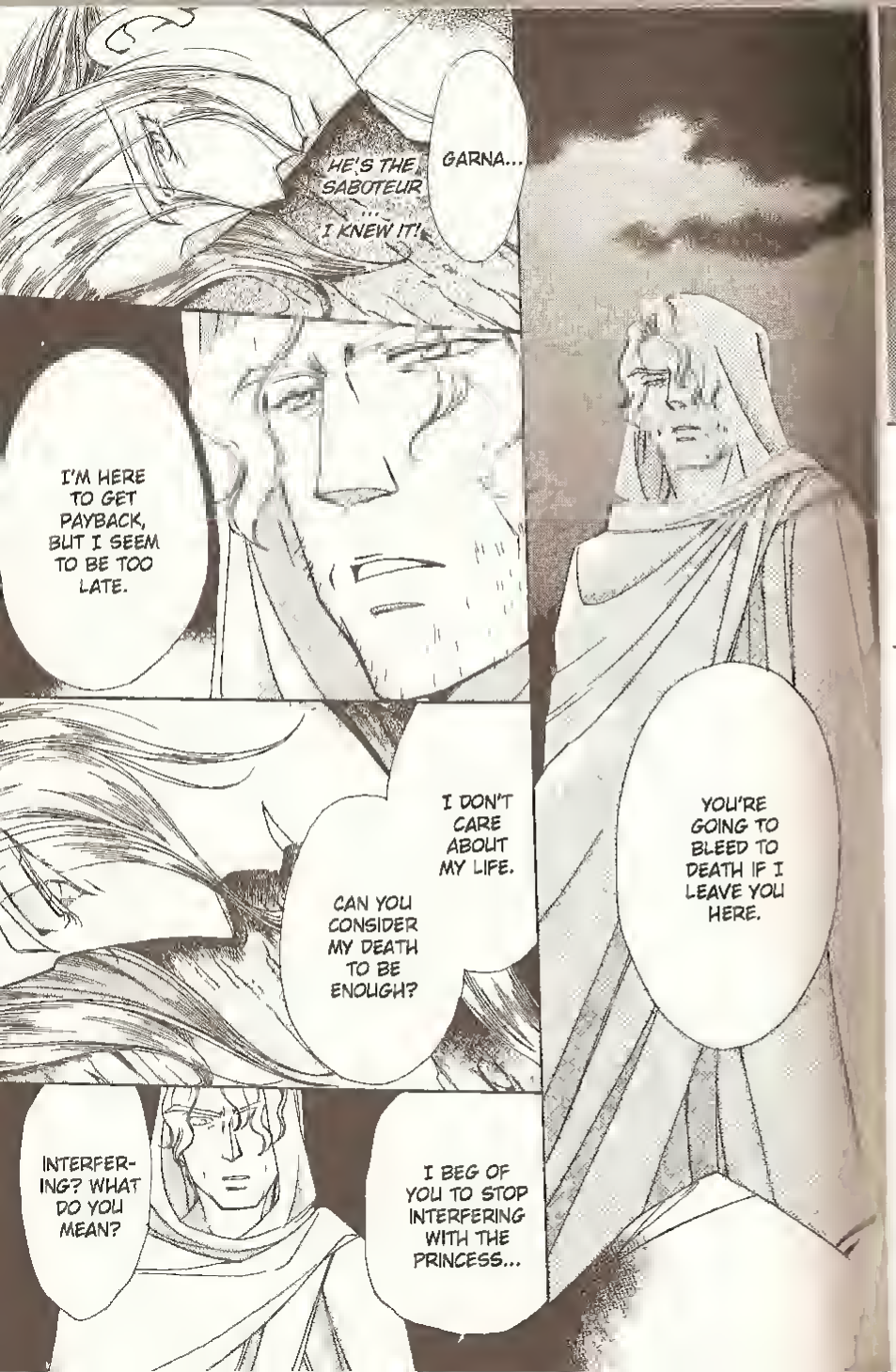
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.
HE'S NOT HERE.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED ...
RUSTLE
INFREE!
INFREE?
...THAT, INFREE WAS KILLED BY SOMEONE TRYING TO SABOTAGE THE PRINCESS?
COULD IT BE...?
RUSTLE
INFREE, WHERE ARE YOU?
INFREE ...
INFREE, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING---


THIS ISN'T THE ARGENT I KNOW...
"A SECRET, ANCIENT EASTERN ORGANIZATION RAISED HUMANS...
...WITH POISONOUS FLESH TO BE USED AS BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS."
LET HIM GO!!
BOOM
S...STOP!
ARGENT, DON'T HURT HIM!

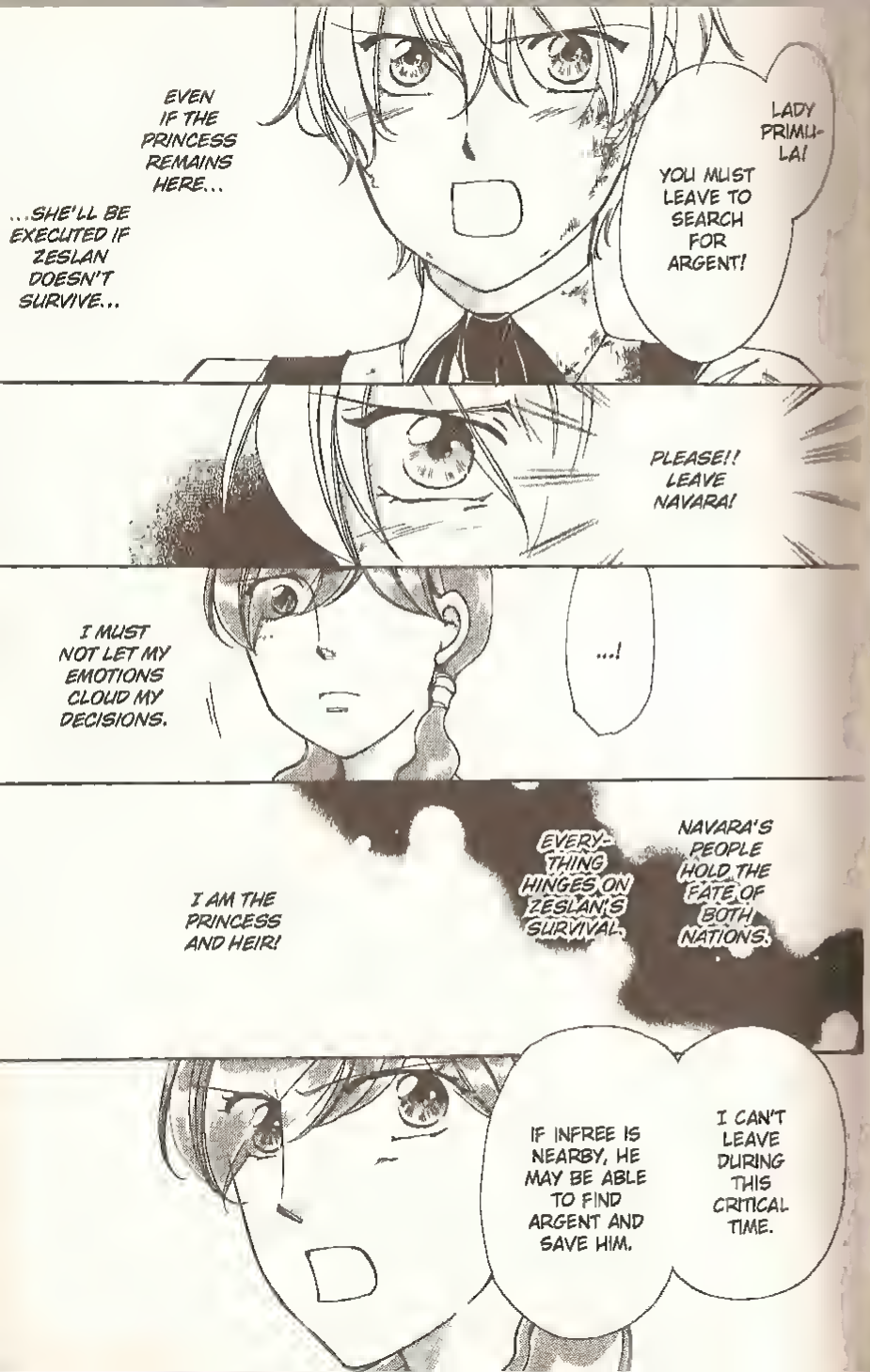
HAND THE GOODS OVER!
LORCA, WE HAVE TO SAVE THE PRINCESS AND ZESLAN.
THUD
THUD
ARGENT!
ARGENT!
GRAB

"YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM."
BROTHER DANIEL WAS RIGHT! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
I'M TOO WOUNDED TO MOVE. I'M ALSO ABOUT TO LOSE MY MIND.
BUT...
"YOU'VE RUINED THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES."
...I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN YOU OR LADY PRIMULA INTO THIS MESS!
IF I HAD NEVER GONE TO BEAZOL...
IF YOU DO...
ARGENT, YOU'D BETTER NOT DIE!
ZESLAN AND THE PRINCESS' LIVES DEPENDS ON YOU.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

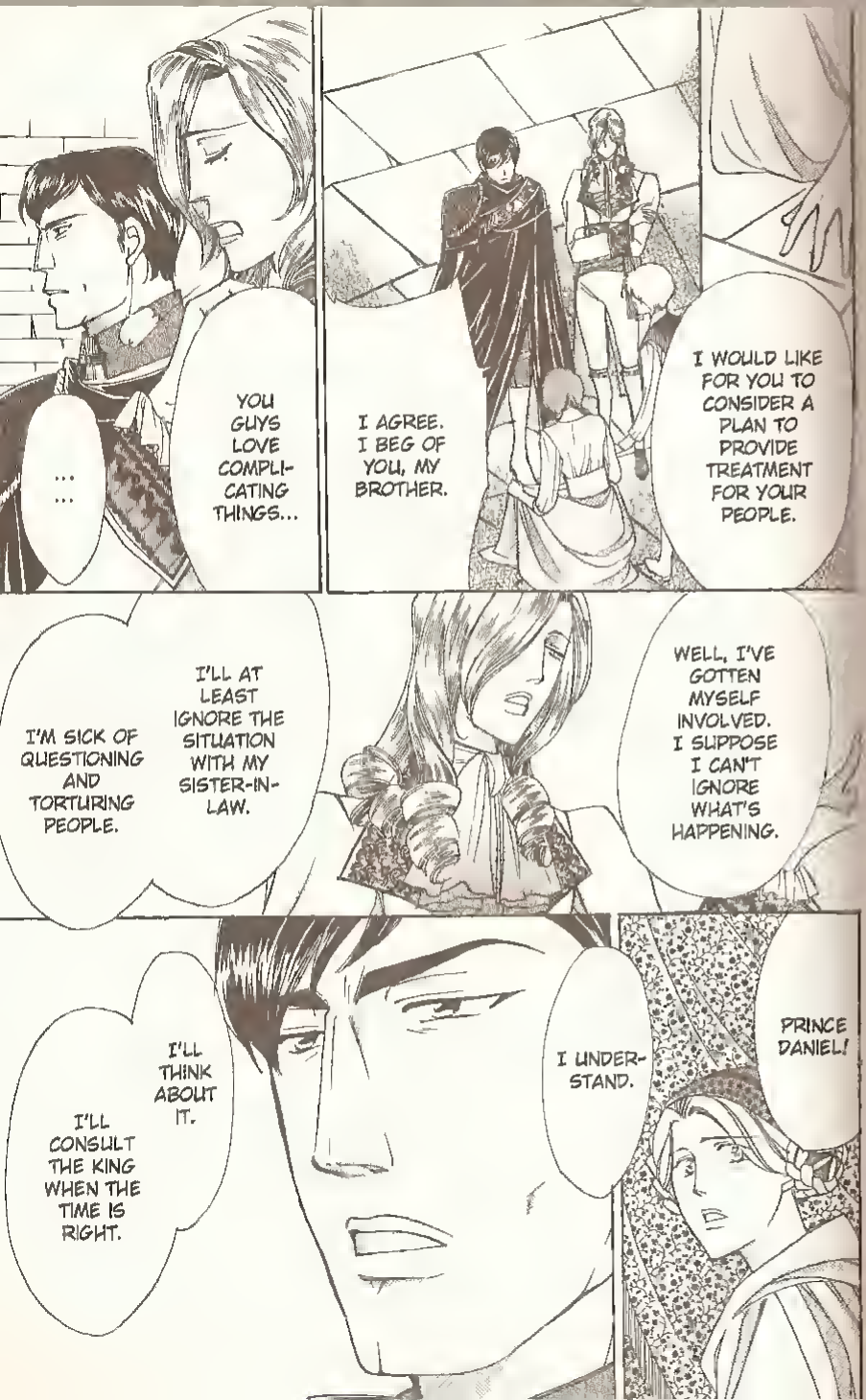
CLATTER
UH...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ARGENT?!
ARGENT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
DON'T TOUCH ME.
CRAP! RUN!
THE PLANTS ARE WILTING FROM HIS BLOOD..
I USED THIS NOISEMAKER I BOUGHT FROM A FOREIGN MERCHANT! IT'S USED TO SCARE BIRDS. I NEVER THOUGHT...
LORCA, YOU MUST RETURN TO THE PALACE WITH THESE HERBS.
WE CAN'T LET THESE PLANTS WILT!


GARNA...
HE'S THE SABOTEUR ... I KNEW IT!
I'M HERE TO GET PAYBACK, BUT I SEEM TO BE TOO LATE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LIFE.
CAN YOU CONSIDER MY DEATH TO BE ENOUGH?
YOU'RE GOING TO BLEED TO DEATH IF I LEAVE YOU HERE.
INTERFERING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I BEG OF YOU TO STOP INTERFERING WITH THE PRINCESS...

I COULD NOT BE NEAR THE PRINCESS MUCH LONGER AS A BASILISK.
MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST ...
I WAS NEVER COMPETING AGAINST YOU...
...THE PRINCESS IS MINE BY DEFAULT!
LORCA WILL BE A STRONG SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR HER.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
...GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH THE PRINCESS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
YOU HAD IT COMING.
CRUNCH


EVEN IF THE PRINCESS REMAINS HERE...
...SHE'LL BE EXECUTED IF ZESLAN DOESN'T SURVIVE...
LADY PRIMULA!
YOU MUST LEAVE TO SEARCH FOR ARGENT!
PLEASE!! LEAVE NAVARA!
I MUST NOT LET MY EMOTIONS CLOUD MY DECISIONS.
...!
I AM THE PRINCESS AND HEIR!
EVERYTHING HINGES ON ZESLAN'S SURVIVAL.
NAVARA'S PEOPLE HOLD THE FATE OF BOTH NATIONS.
I CAN'T LEAVE DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME.
IF INFREE IS NEARBY, HE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND ARGENT AND SAVE HIM.

SLAM
HEY!!
LORCA!
WHERE'S INFREE AND THE APOTHECARY?
I GOT SEPARATED FROM INFREE.
KTZ
KTZ
ARGENT WAS ATTACKED TRYING TO PROTECT ME. HE'S INJURED.
DANT
DANT
I'M HERE WITH THE HERB.
ARGENT GAVE ME INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING THE HERB. I'VE BEEN TREATED BY HIM, SO I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.
I'LL DO THE REST.


...
...
YOU GUYS LOVE COMPLI-CATING THINGS...
I AGREE. I BEG OF YOU, MY BROTHER.
I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO CONSIDER A PLAN TO PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE.
I'M SICK OF QUESTIONING AND TORTURING PEOPLE.
I'LL AT LEAST IGNORE THE SITUATION WITH MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
WELL, I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INVOLVED. I SUPPOSE I CAN'T IGNORE WHAT'S HAPPENING.
I'LL CONSULT THE KING WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
I UNDER-STAND.
PRINCE DANIEL!

THIS GIRL IS TOUGH ...
LADY PRIMULA... I'M SURE SHE WANTS TO GO LOOK FOR ARGENT.
LORCA, WE MUST PREPARE THE MEDICINE RIGHT AWAY.
NOW YOU KNOW THAT THE DISEASE ISN'T COMMUNICABLE.
PRINCE ADONA.
ZESLAN!
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GETTING BETTER!

ARGENT!!
ARGENT!
MY LADY, YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH HIM.
I'LL GIVE DETAILS LATER.
I NEED A BED SO I CAN START TREATING HIS WOUNDS.
I NEVER HAD A CHANCE...
I LOST.

Y...YES!
MEANWHILE, I'LL NEED MORE INFORMATION FROM YOU.
THANK YOU, LORCA.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST. YOU MUST LOOK FOR ARGENT!
LADY PRIMULA!
ARGENT!!
GARNA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THERE'S NO NEED.
KTZ

Apothecarius Argentum
Recipe 14 • Impersonators

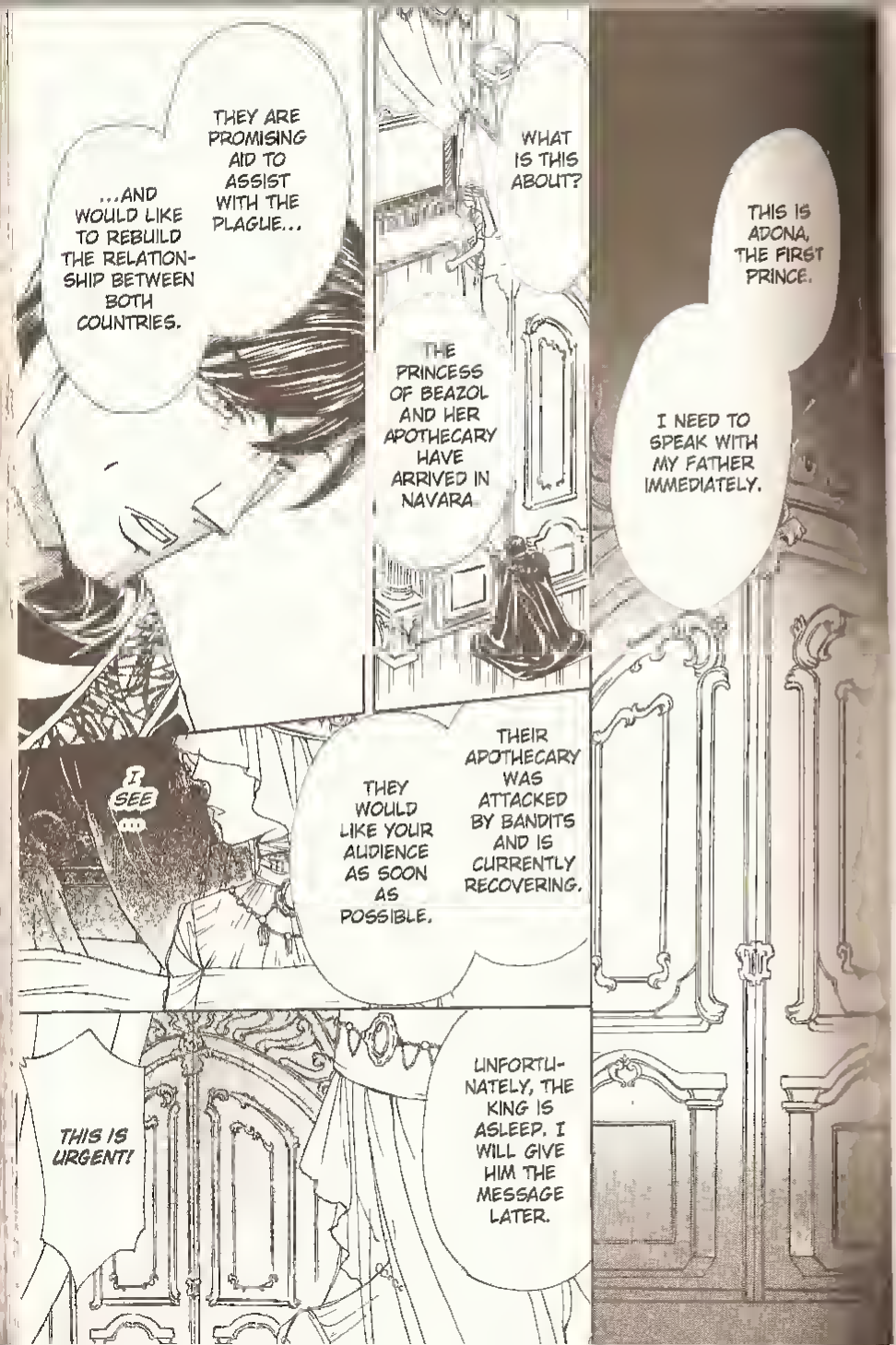
FORMER ENEMIES ARE SLOWLY OVERCOMING THEIR ANIMOSITY TO BECOME ALLIES.
HOW-EVER ...
AS THE THIRD PRINCE, I DEMAND THAT MY GUESTS FROM BEAZOL BE SUPPLIED WITH A ROOM!
...PEOPLE WERE UNAWARE OF THE SHADOW AMONG THEIR RANKS...
Rp 13/ The End

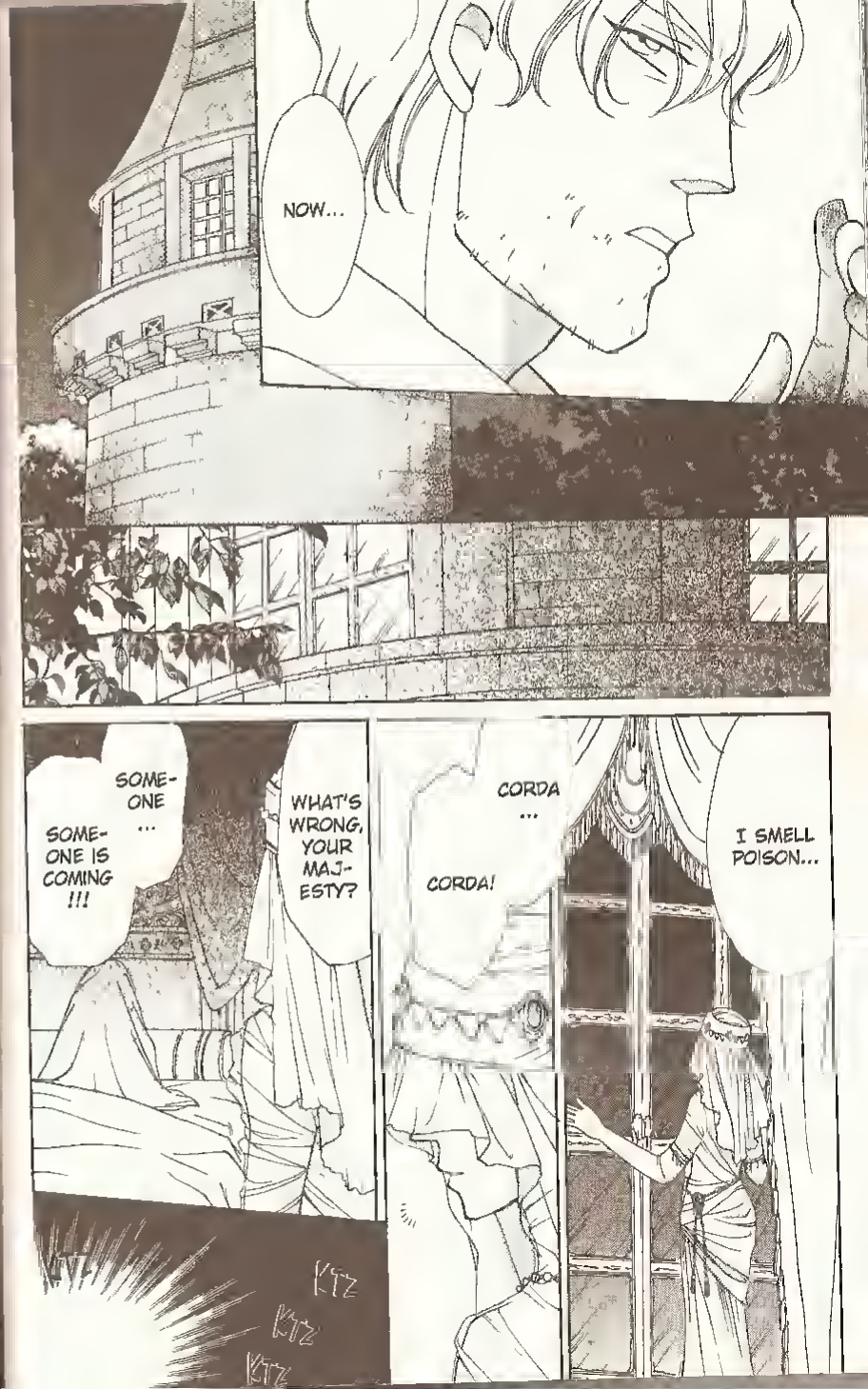
I'M SURE YOU CAN'T TRUST ME.
I SUPPOSE BECAUSE ...
...I WAS THE ASSASSIN THAT TRIED TO KILL YOU BOTH.
LORCA, CAN YOU GIVE US PRIVACY?
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.
FORGIVE ME.
INFREE! YOU'RE SAFE!
BANDITS STOLE THE HORSE. I WASN'T ABLE TO ACCOMPANY YOU BACK.
SLUMP
HE WAS INJURED TRYING TO PROTECT ME FROM BANDITS.
I AM, BUT ARGENT'S NOT.
PRINCE LORCA!

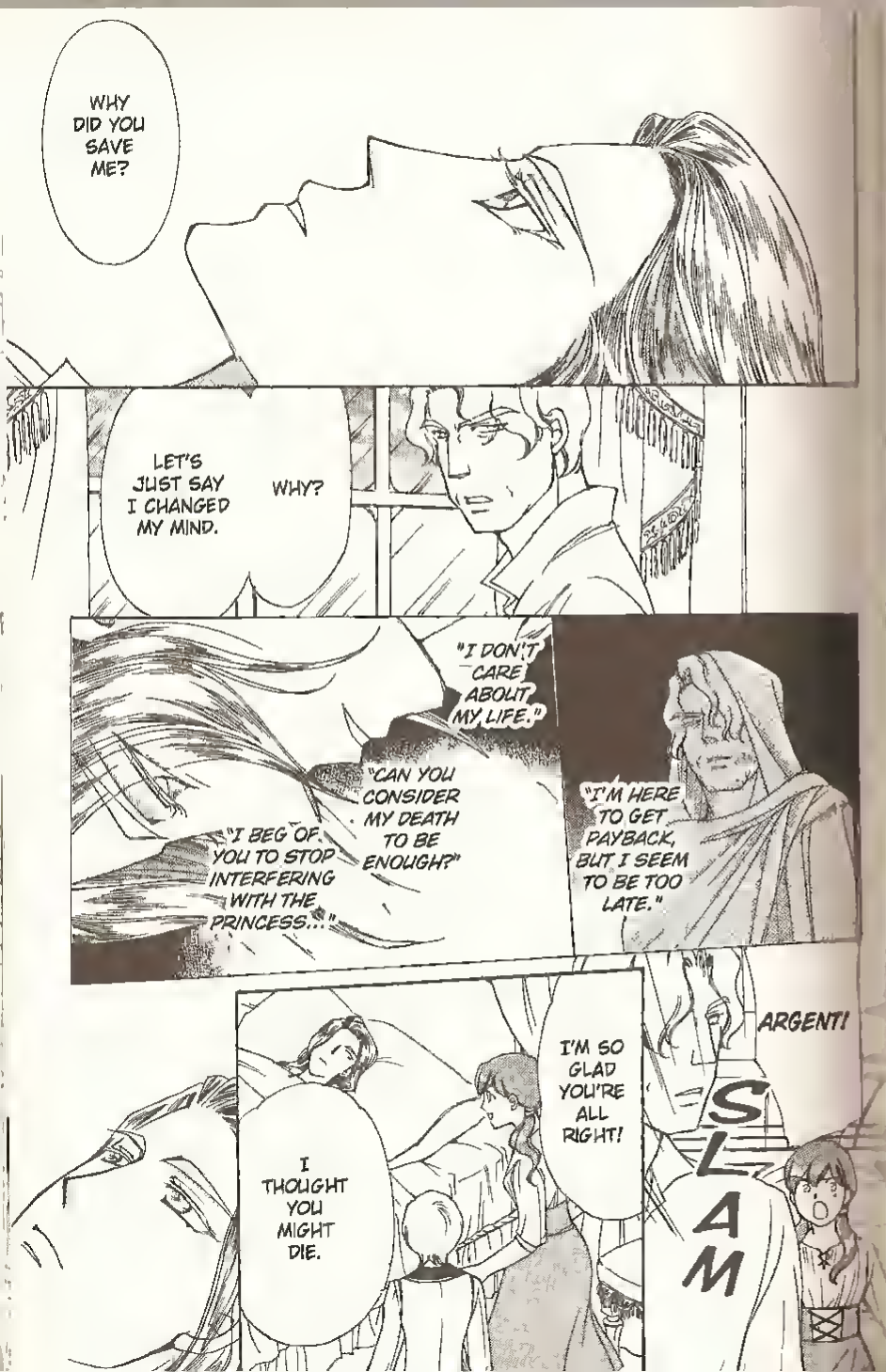
NAVARA PALACE. NAVARA IS A KINGDOM THAT BORDERS BEAZOL.
ARGENT! ARGENT!!
THIS IS BAD. A BULLET WOUND...
THAT'S TRUE...
HE'S THE POISONOUS BASILISK...
I'LL CALL FOR A DOCTOR!!
IT'S NO USE. HIS BODY IS UNLIKE OURS.
WHY!!
I DON'T RECOM-MEND IT.
I'LL HELP!
I'M NO EXPERT, BUT I'M THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON HERE.
I'LL TREAT HIM.

POISONS THAT KILL BUGS, RIFLES ...
WHAT IF THOSE THINGS FIND THEIR WAY INTO BEAZOL?
REMEMBER? ARGENT MADE THOSE BEAUTIFUL FIREWORKS FROM SULFUR...
THERE ARE SMART PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
GARNA, WHAT'S WRONG?
!
YOU'RE JUST TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE.
I THINK A LITTLE NAP WOULD BE PERFECT RIGHT OVER HERE.
SLUMP
!

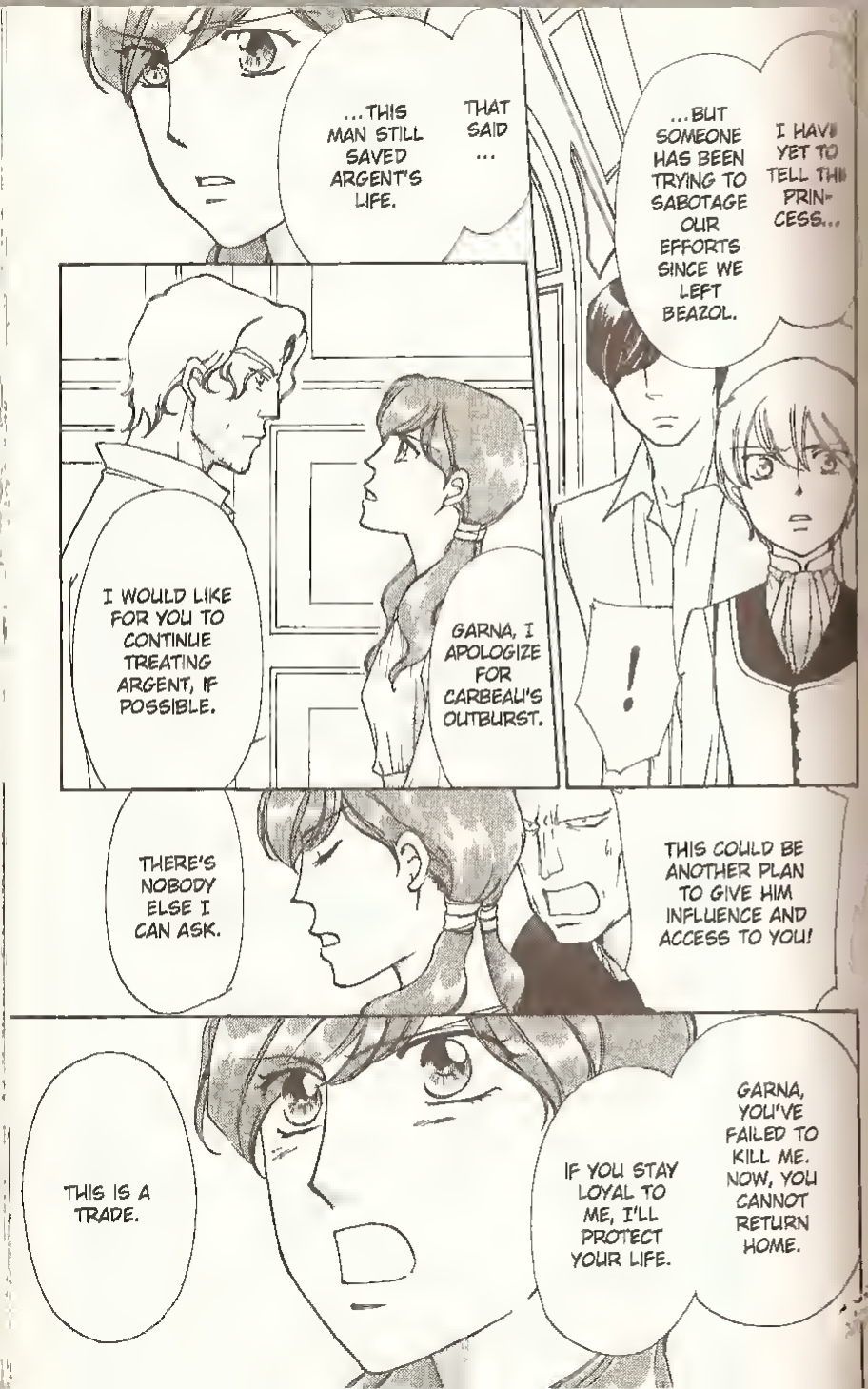
ARGENT?!
BASILISK'S BODILY FLUIDS CAN CHANGE IN TOXICITY DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION.
LAST TIME, HIS BLOOD BURNED MY SKIN.
!
I NEVER THOUGHT A NOISE-MAKER WOULD CAUSE SO MUCH DAMAGE.
THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY NOISE-MAKER. IT'S CALLED A RIFLE.
IT'S USED AS A POWERFUL WEAPON IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
IT DOESN'T JUST MAKE NOISE. THERE'S A LEAD BALL CALLED A BULLET THAT GETS PROJECTED FROM THE BARREL.
IT'S LIKE A MINIATURE FIREWORK AND CANNON.
OTHER COUNTRIES USE WEAPONS LIKE THIS?


...AND WOULD LIKE TO REBUILD THE RELATION-SHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.
THEY ARE PROMISING AID TO ASSIST WITH THE PLAGUE...
I SEE...
THE PRINCESS OF BEAZOL AND HER APOTHECARY HAVE ARRIVED IN NAVARA.
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
THEY WOULD LIKE YOUR AUDIENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THEIR APOTHECARY WAS ATTACKED BY BANDITS AND IS CURRENTLY RECOVERING.
THIS IS URGENT!
UNFORTU-NATELY, THE KING IS ASLEEP. I WILL GIVE HIM THE MESSAGE LATER.
THIS IS ADONA, THE FIRST PRINCE.
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH MY FATHER IMMEDIATELY.


NOW...
SOME-ONE IS COMING !!!
SOME-ONE ...
WHAT'S WRONG, YOUR MAJ-ESTY?
CORDA!
CORDA ...
I SMELL POISON...
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ

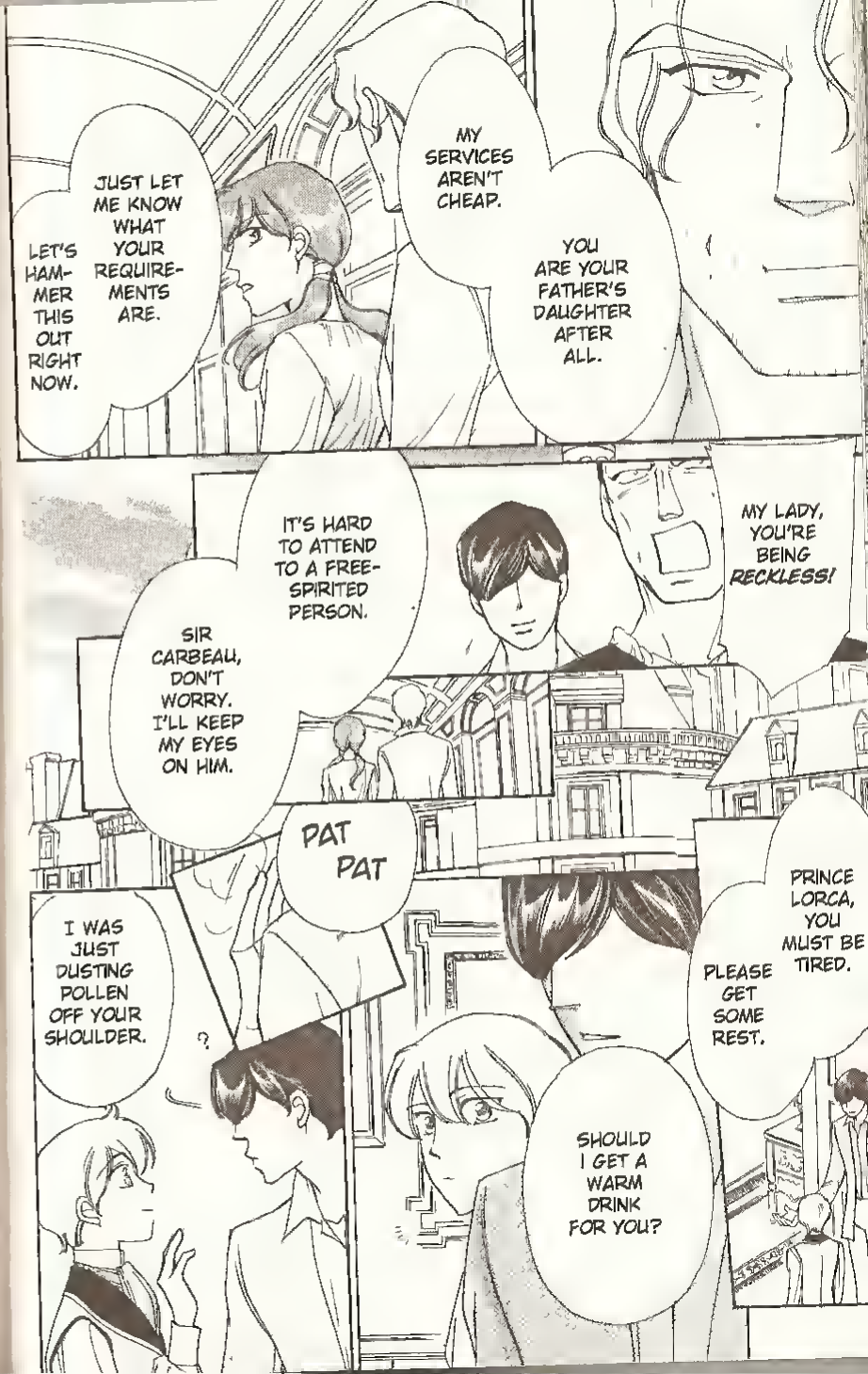

WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
LET'S JUST SAY I CHANGED MY MIND.
WHY?
"I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LIFE."
"CAN YOU CONSIDER MY DEATH TO BE ENOUGH?"
"I BEG OF YOU TO STOP INTERFERING WITH THE PRINCESS..."
"I'M HERE TO GET PAYBACK, BUT I SEEM TO BE TOO LATE."
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DIE.
ARGENT!
SLAM

THIS WOMAN...
PLEASE, KEEP CALM FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR FATHER, THE KING.
YOU MAY BE STRONG, BUT YOU ARE STILL A YOUNG LADY...
Here's water.
HE JUST WOKE UP.
ARGENT!
YOU APPARENTLY FAINTED AFTER SEEING SO MUCH BLOOD.
WHEN DID I...?!
VOLT

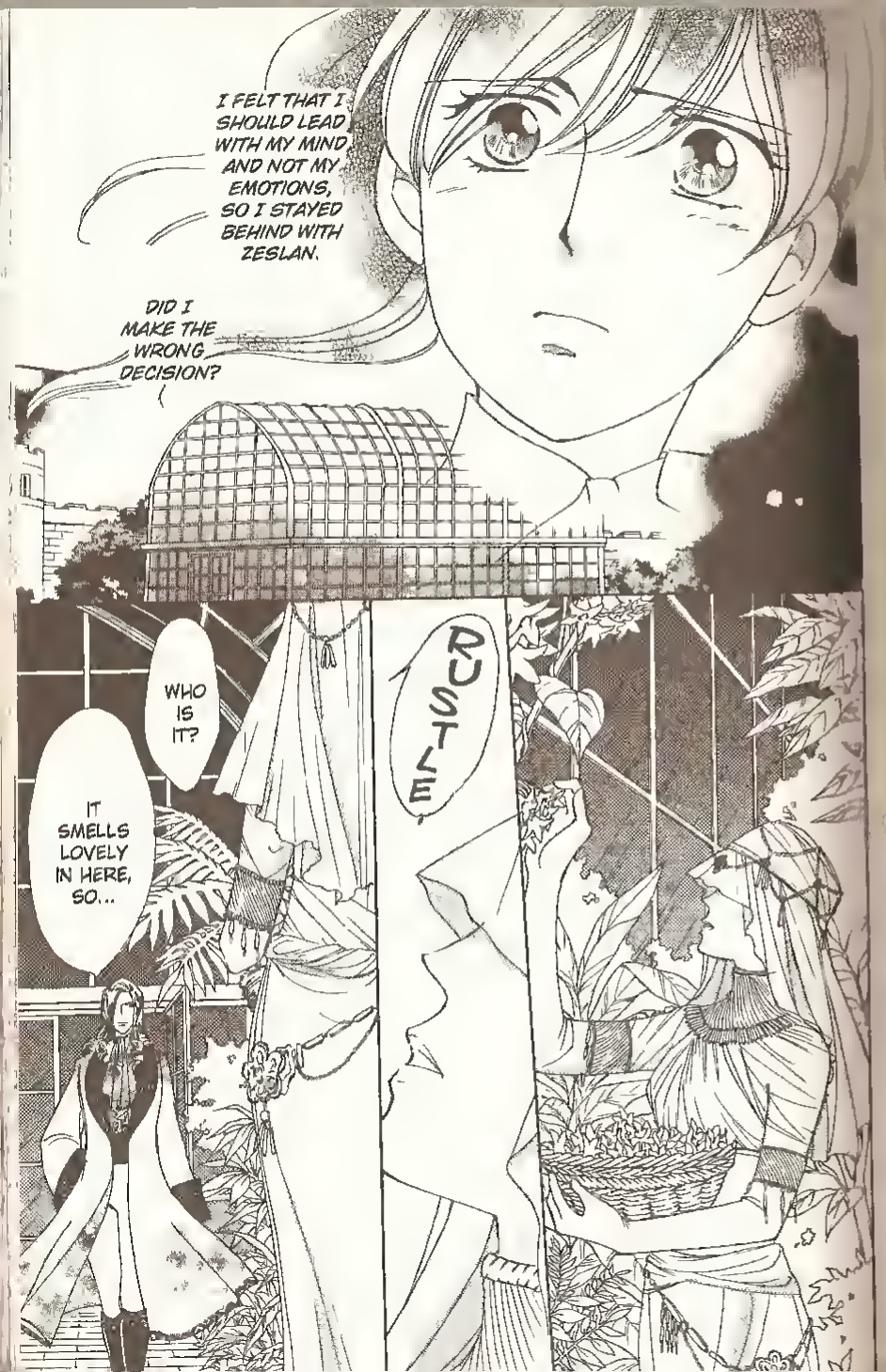

...THIS MAN STILL SAVED ARGENT'S LIFE.
THAT SAID ...
...BUT SOMEONE HAS BEEN TRYING TO SABOTAGE OUR EFFORTS SINCE WE LEFT BEAZOL.
I HAVE YET TO TELL THE PRINCESS...
I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TREATING ARGENT, IF POSSIBLE.
GARNA, I APOLOGIZE FOR CARBEAU'S OUTBURST.
!
THERE'S NOBODY ELSE I CAN ASK.
THIS COULD BE ANOTHER PLAN TO GIVE HIM INFLUENCE AND ACCESS TO YOU!
THIS IS A TRADE.
IF YOU STAY LOYAL TO ME, I'LL PROTECT YOUR LIFE.
GARNA, YOU'VE FAILED TO KILL ME. NOW, YOU CANNOT RETURN HOME.

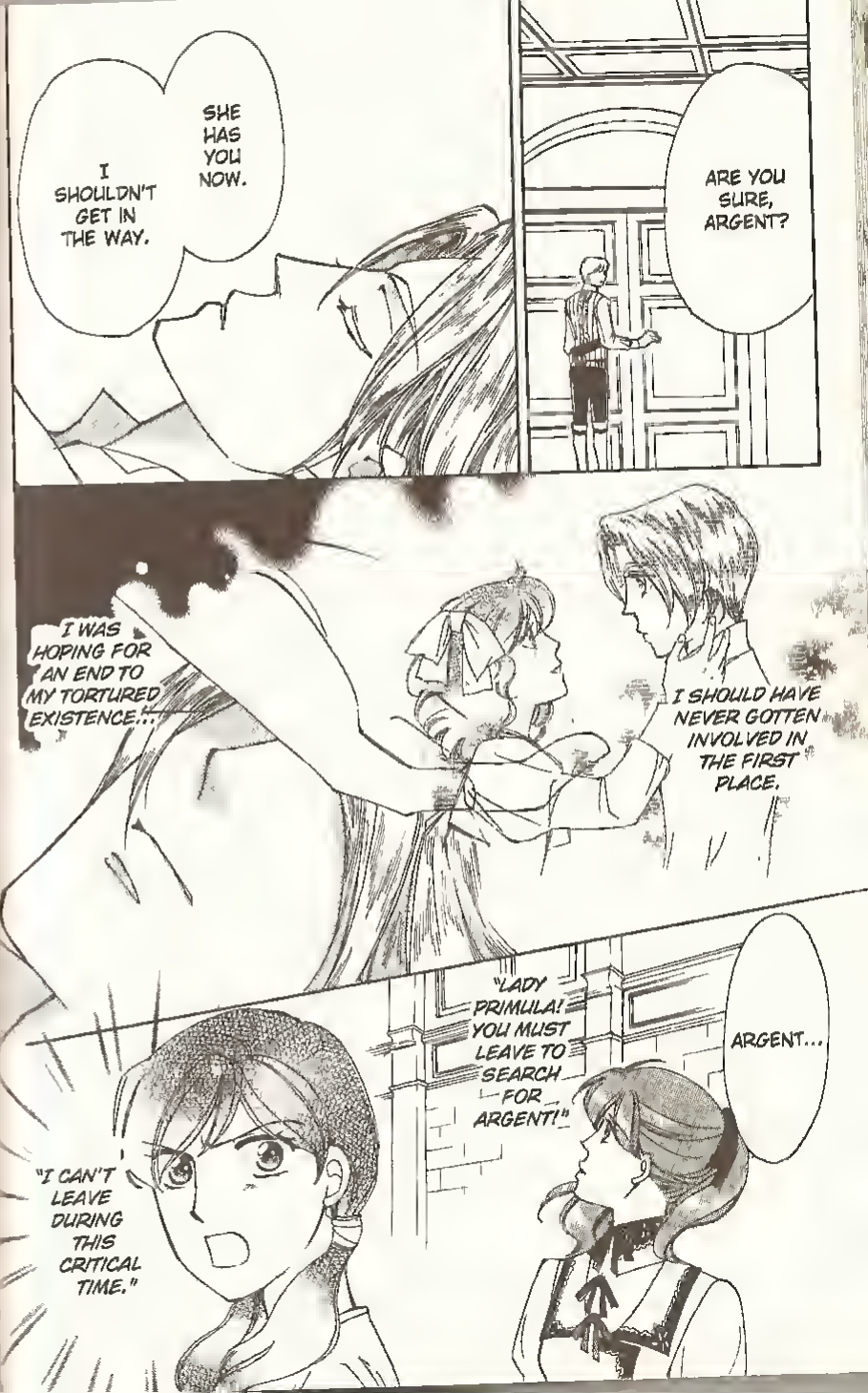
HE'S INJURED. LET HIM REST.
ARGENT?
SLAM
THE PRINCESS MADE ME A FREE MAN ONCE AGAIN, BUT...
...I HAVE NOWHERE TO GO, SO I THOUGHT...
YOU HEARD THAT THE PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE LEFT FOR NAVARA, SO YOU FOLLOWED THEM HERE LOOKING FOR A CHANCE!!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
CARBEAU!
THANK YOU, GARNA ...
...FOR SAVING ARGENT.

SOME PLANTS UTILIZE INSECTS TO HELP SPREAD THEIR POLLEN, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY I WAS TENACIOUS, LIKE A COCKROACH.
INSECT?
YOU'RE LIKE AN INSECT.
INFREE.
"I'LL SHOW YOU A GOOD WAY."
YOU SHOW UP UNEXPECTEDLY, AND YOU'RE ADAPTABLE...
"LADY PRIMULA!"
TRUE, AND YOU ALSO FIND YOUR WAY INTO ANYTHING.
HA HA HA!
PRINCE LORCA?
...
NO.
IT'S NOTHING.

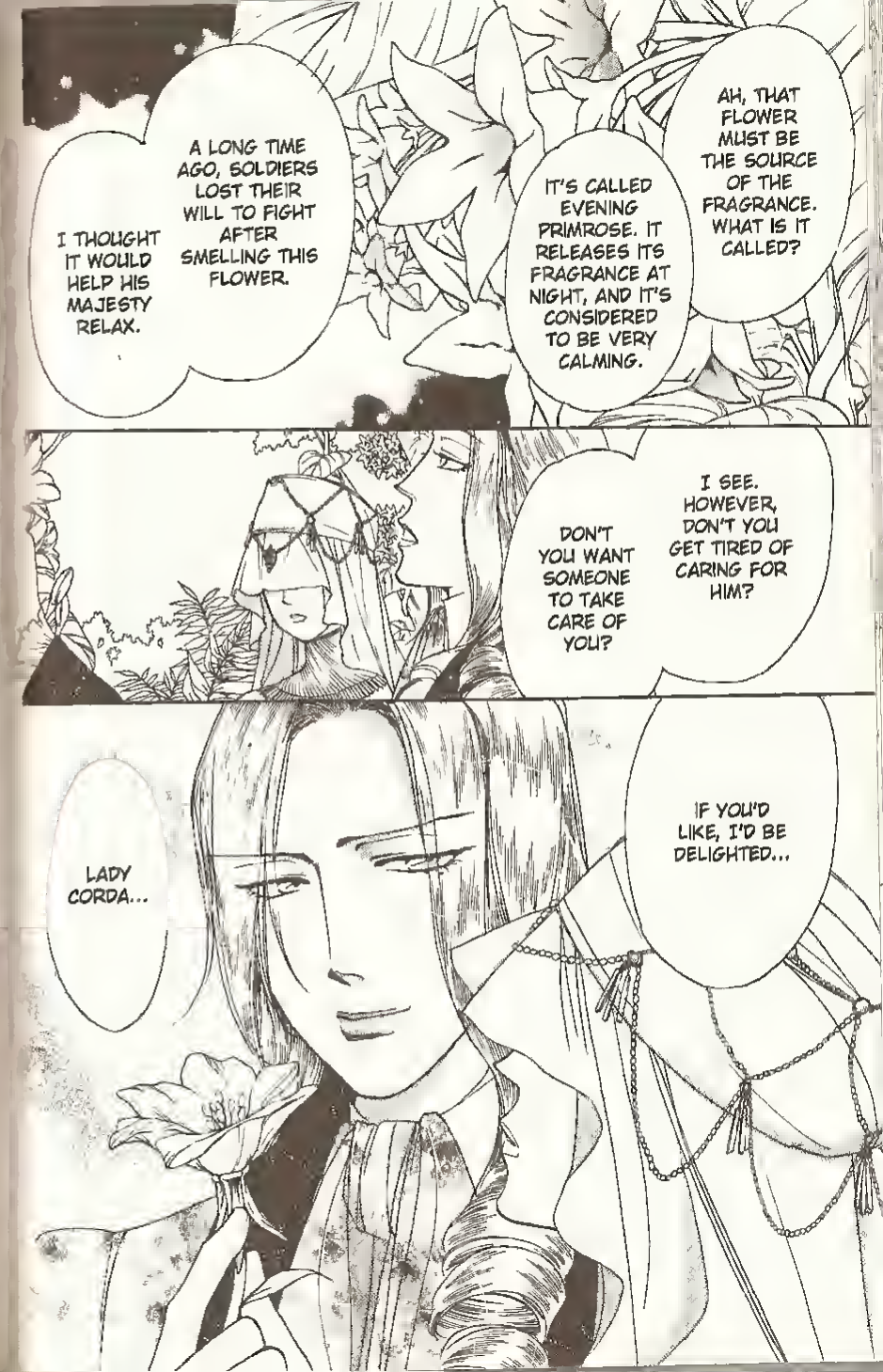

LET'S HAMMER THIS OUT RIGHT NOW.
JUST LET ME KNOW WHAT YOUR REQUIREMENTS ARE.
MY SERVICES AREN'T CHEAP.
YOU ARE YOUR FATHER'S DAUGHTER AFTER ALL.
MY LADY, YOU'RE BEING RECKLESS!
IT'S HARD TO ATTEND TO A FREE-SPIRITED PERSON.
SIR CARBEAU, DON'T WORRY. I'LL KEEP MY EYES ON HIM.
PAT PAT
I WAS JUST DUSTING POLLEN OFF YOUR SHOULDER.
PRINCE LORCA, YOU MUST BE TIRED.
PLEASE GET SOME REST.
SHOULD I GET A WARM DRINK FOR YOU?

UNFOR-TUNATELY ...
...HE DOESN'T WANT ANY GUESTS AT THE MOMENT.
I SEE...
FROM WHAT I HEAR, SHE IS NOT INTIMATE WITH FATHER.
SHE JUST TAKES CARE OF HIM DAY AND NIGHT.
I WONDER HOW LONG A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT WOULD LAST?
THANK YOU.
UNTIL THEN, PLEASE GET SOME REST.
REGARDING OUR ALLIANCE, WE CAN RESUME THE CONVERSATION ONCE ARGENT RECOVERS.
I HEAR ARGENT THE APOTHECARY IS NO LONGER IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
PRINCE ADONA!
DANIEL...
RIGHT, BROTHER ?
I'M GLAD THE APOTHECARY'S INJURIES BOUGHT UP MORE TIME.
I'M USED TO FATHER HAVING NUMEROUS LOVERS, BUT THE CURRENT WOMAN, CORDA...
I CAN'T FIND A REASON TO EXPEL HER.
...AND HE'S COOPED UP IN HIS QUARTERS WITH A WOMAN. HE REFUSES TO SEE HIS SONS, MUCH LESS ANYONE ELSE.
IT'S HARD TO TELL OTHERS THAT THE KING HAS LOST HIS MIND ...


I FELT THAT I SHOULD LEAD WITH MY MIND AND NOT MY EMOTIONS, SO I STAYED BEHIND WITH ZESLAN.
DID I MAKE THE WRONG DECISION?
RUSTLE
WHO IS IT?
IT SMELLS LOVELY IN HERE, SO...


ARE YOU SURE, ARGENT?
SHE HAS YOU NOW.
I SHOULDN'T GET IN THE WAY.
I WAS HOPING FOR AN END TO MY TORTURED EXISTENCE...
I SHOULD HAVE NEVER GOTTEN INVOLVED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
ARGENT...
"LADY PRIMULA! YOU MUST LEAVE TO SEARCH FOR ARGENT!"
"I CAN'T LEAVE DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME."

YOU MUST BE THE SECOND PRINCE, DANIEL, THE BALLADEER OF LOVE.
I APPRECIATE YOUR KIND WORDS.
I SEE. SHE'S VERY GUARDED.
EXCUSE ME.
YOU COULD TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE FLOWERS HERE.
CONVER-SATION?
WELL, HOW ABOUT SOME CONVERSA-TION?

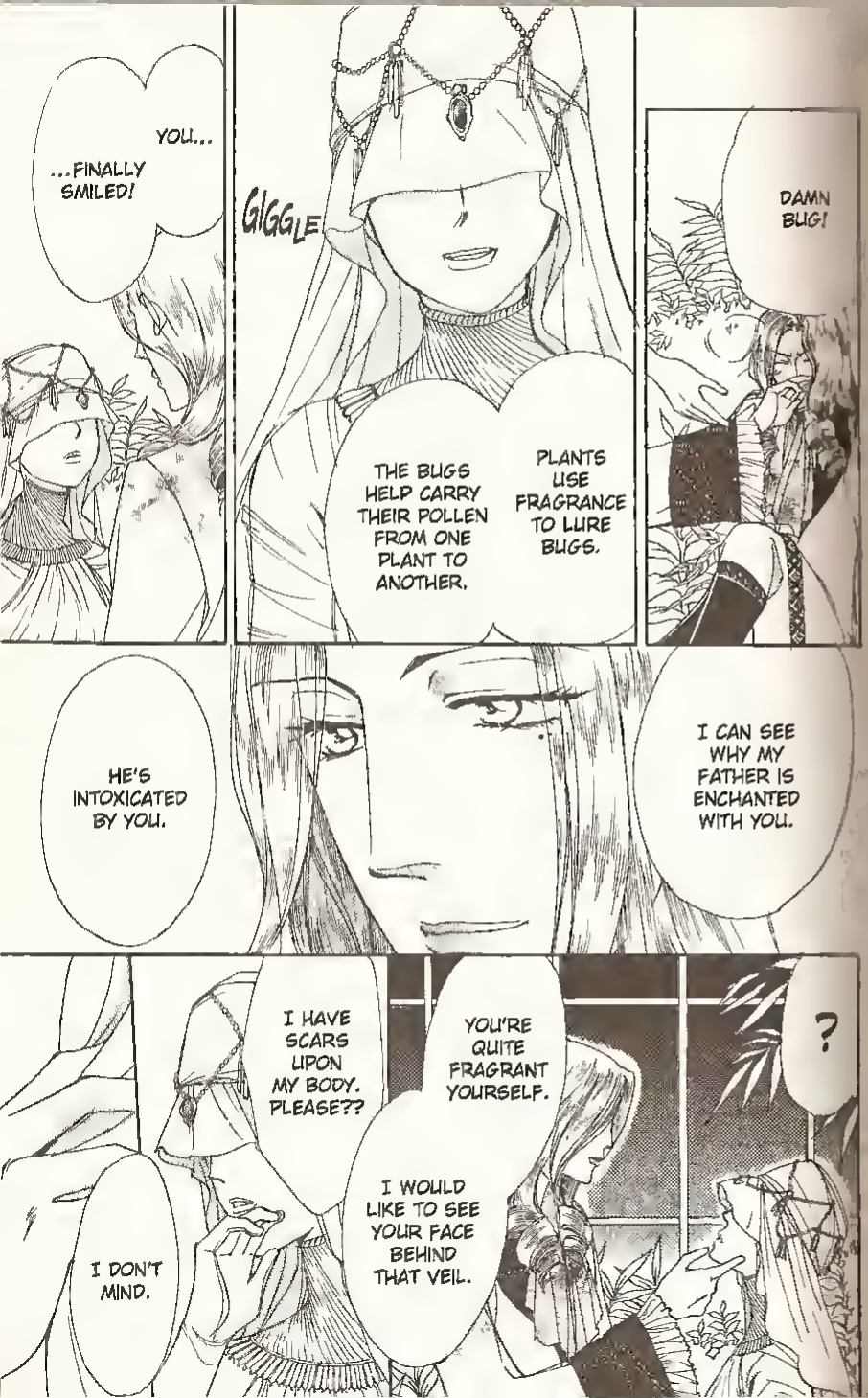

I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP HIS MAJESTY RELAX.
A LONG TIME AGO, SOLDIERS LOST THEIR WILL TO FIGHT AFTER SMELLING THIS FLOWER.
IT'S CALLED EVENING PRIMROSE. IT RELEASES ITS FRAGRANCE AT NIGHT, AND IT'S CONSIDERED TO BE VERY CALMING.
AH, THAT FLOWER MUST BE THE SOURCE OF THE FRAGRANCE. WHAT IS IT CALLED?
DON'T YOU WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU?
I SEE. HOWEVER, DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF CARING FOR HIM?
LADY CORDA...
IF YOU'D LIKE, I'D BE DELIGHTED...

WITH FOOD, YOU CAN PREVENT ILLNESS
IT CAN ALSO CAUSE ILLNESS, JUST LIKE ARGENT OR PRINCE LORCA.
HOW MUCH POISON WOULD I HAVE TO TAKE TO BE LIKE ARGENT?
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO POISON YOURSELF FOR ARGENT?
OF COURSE NOT.
I WAS JUST WONDERING.
TO ARGENT, FOOD WAS SOMETHING THAT CAUSED HIM A LOT OF DISTRESS.
HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT GIVE UP OR SURVIVE.
YOU DON'T GET A FULL STOMACH THROUGH GOOD INTENTIONS.
IN THE NATURAL WORLD, THE FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL IS PRETTY FIERCE. LIVING ORGANISMS WILL DO WHAT THEY CAN TO SURVIVE.

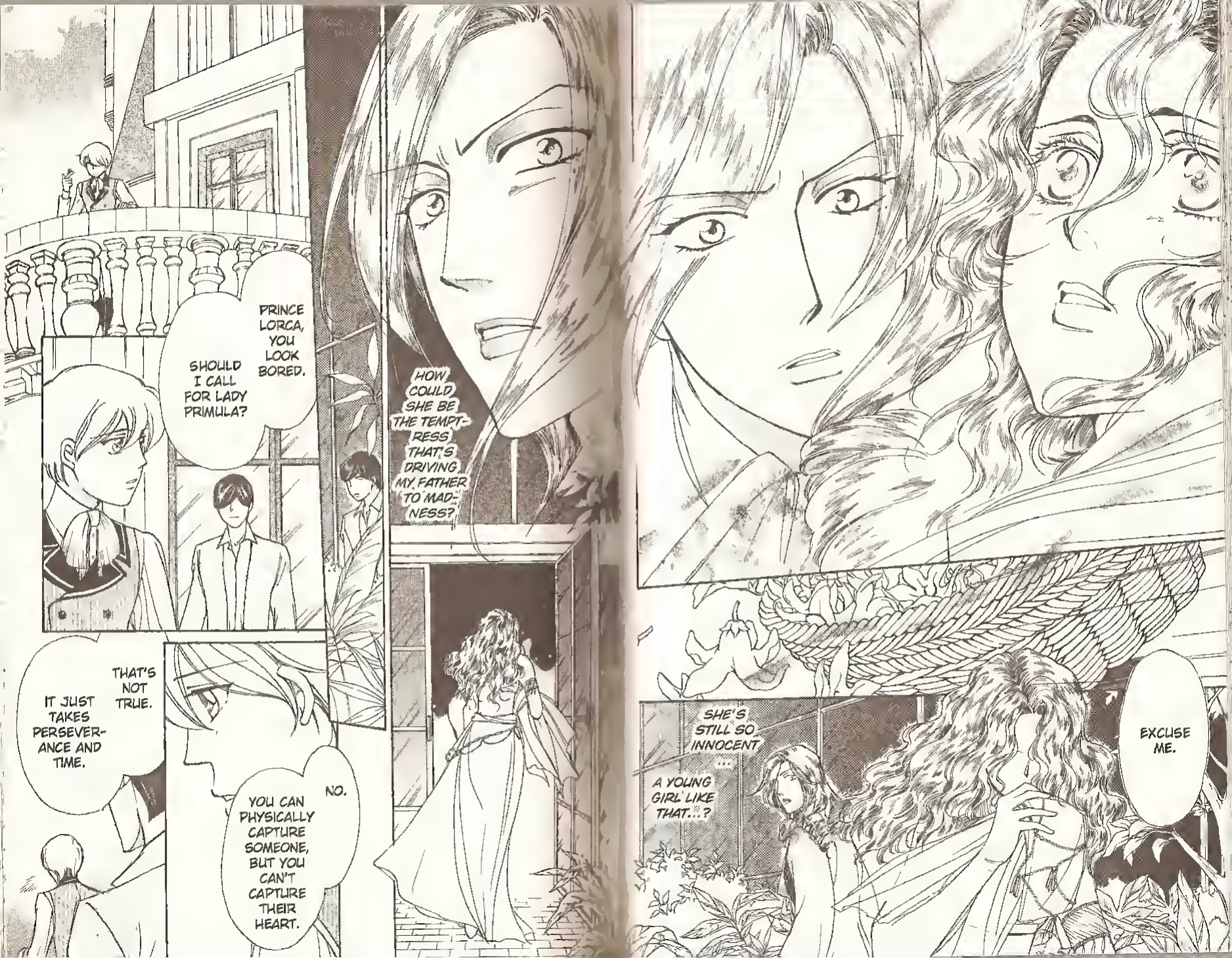
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
I'LL HELP.
COOKING IS NOT ONE OF YOUR CONDITIONS HERE.
I'M VOLUNTEERING.
I'M FINE!
LADY PRIMULA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I THOUGHT I WOULD HELP OUT AND COOK.
I CAN'T WATCH YOU DO THIS!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ARGENT?!
PEOPLE SAY FOOD IS MEDICINE BECAUSE ...
... FOOD IS JUST AS IMPORTANT.

YES, PRINCE LORCA.
STOP HERE!
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
WE COULD BARELY FIND SOME DANDELIONS NEAR THE PALACE.
WHERE DID HE FIND POLLEN?!
I KNEW IT...
"UNBELIEVABLE...
I CAN'T FIND AN HERB, MUCH LESS A BLADE OF GRASS!"

YOU COULD BE FAKING TO TRICK ME.
SOME USE POISON TO DEFEND THEM-SELVES.
OTHERS IMPERSONATE TO TRICK PREDATORS.
ARGENT TOLD ME SOMETHING SIMILAR.
THAT'S TRUE.
I DO APPRECI-ATE YOUR HELP, THOUGH.
AFTER ALL, I WOULD NOT HAVE MET ARGENT WITHOUT YOU.
I THOUGHT HE WAS AN AMATEUR, SO I CALLED FOR HIM.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS POISONING YOU.


YOU...
...FINALLY SMILED!
GIGGLE
THE BUGS HELP CARRY THEIR POLLEN FROM ONE PLANT TO ANOTHER.
PLANTS USE FRAGRANCE TO LURE BUGS.
DAMN BUG!
HE'S INTOXICATED BY YOU.
I CAN SEE WHY MY FATHER IS ENCHANTED WITH YOU.
I HAVE SCARS UPON MY BODY. PLEASE??
YOU'RE QUITE FRAGRANT YOURSELF.
?
I DON'T MIND.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR FACE BEHIND THAT VEIL.

THIS IS MYRRH.
THIS IS BERGAMOT.
BUZZZZ
THERE'S NOTHING SEXY OR FLIRTATIOUS ABOUT HER...
SHE'S NOT CONVERSING, SHE'S LECTURING.
I SEE...
MYRRH'S PRESERVATIVE PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN USED IN THE MUMMIFICATION OF BODIES.
UH...
WHOA!
GAH!
THUD
PRINCE DANIEL!


PRINCE LORCA, YOU LOOK BORED.
SHOULD I CALL FOR LADY PRIMULA?
HOW COULD SHE BE THE TEMPTRESS THAT'S DRIVING MY FATHER TO MADNESS?
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IT JUST TAKES PERSEVERANCE AND TIME.
NO.
YOU CAN PHYSICALLY CAPTURE SOMEONE, BUT YOU CAN'T CAPTURE THEIR HEART.
SHE'S STILL SO INNOCENT ...
A YOUNG GIRL LIKE THAT...?
EXCUSE ME.

I DON'T BLAME YOU.
ARGENT, YOU'RE STILL MAD.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AFTER ME. LEAVE ME ALONE.
CLATTER
I THINK MY COOKING HAS GOTTEN BETTER.
...ABANDONED YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED ME.
AFTER ALL, I USED YOU AS MUCH AS I WANTED, THEN...
THE PRINCESS RAN OUT OF THIS ROOM CRYING.
LADY PRIMULA?
GARNA?
SLAM
DASH DASH DASH

INFREE, DID YOU EVER TRY TO STEAL SOMEONE'S HEART?
YES, I HAVE.
KTZ KTZ
I MADE THIS WHILE GARNA COMPLAINED IN THE BACKGROUND.
INFREE?
SIR CARBEAU!
I MUST TELL YOU SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY.

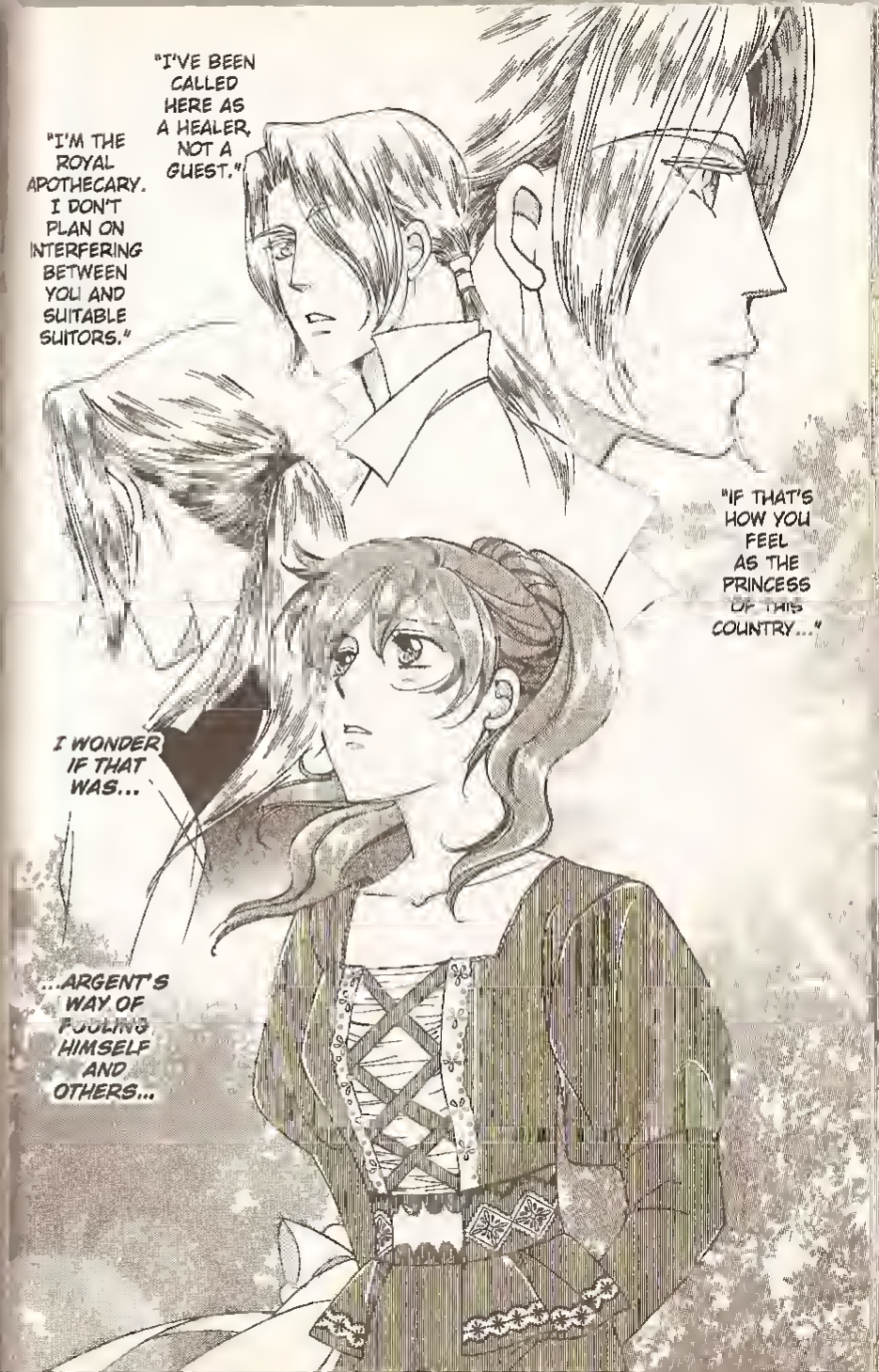
BASILISKS ARE RATHER PITIABLE CREATURES...
NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE.
I CAN'T BE NEAR HER ANYMORE.
IT WAS JUST A SECOND WHEN I LET MY GUARD DOWN.
THE ISOLATION MUST BE AN UNBEARABLE BURDEN.
TOUCHING THOSE YOU LOVE MEANS DEATH AND SEPARATION...
A LONG LIFE MEANS EXTENDED LONELINESS.
SLAM
I JUST DON'T GET WHAT YOU SEE IN HER.
ANY HUMAN WOULD WANT TO TOUCH PEOPLE THEY LOVE.
AT LEAST THIS MEANS YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR HUMANITY.

...SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO.
HMMM, I BET ...
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
UH ...
NOT REALLY.
I JUST TOUCHED HER FOR A SECOND, THAT'S ALL!
I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE PRINCESS.
I OBSERVED A SLIGHT RASH ON HER SKIN.
ACTUALLY, RECENTLY ...
SOMETHING DID HAPPEN.
I KNEW IT.
OOOPS

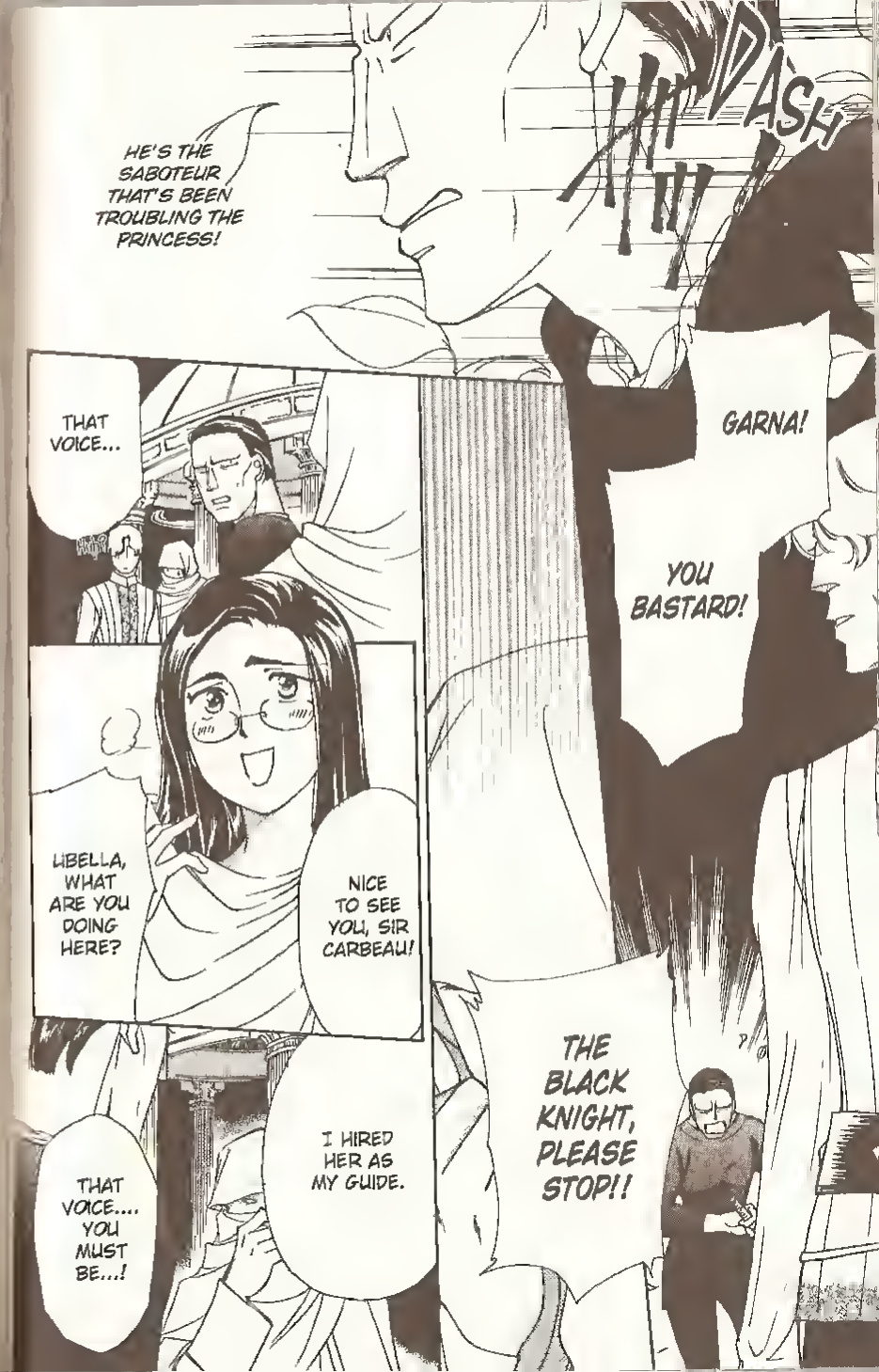
POLITICS AND LOVE REQUIRE TIMES WHERE ONE NEEDS TO FALL BACK. IT'S A BALANCE.
BESIDES, ARGENT...
YOU'RE TOO HONEST.
THAT'S YOUR STRONG POINT.
NOBODY IS SAYING YOU HAVE TO BE UNREADABLE LIKE YOUR FATHER.
HE'S JUST BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
NOTHING REALLY.
WHAT ABOUT ARGENT?
I CAN TALK TO YOU ABOUT THINGS I CAN'T TALK TO MY FATHER ABOUT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FOR NOW.
I'M GLAD I HIRED YOU, GARNA.

WHAT CAN I DO?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ARGENT!
STOP!
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING UNATTRACTIVE!
ARE YOU SATISFIED?
NOW, YOU KNOW.
LADY PRIMULA ...
YOU CAN NEVER EXPRESS THAT AGAIN.
...WHEN YOU RUN WITH YOUR EMOTIONS.
YOU SAW HOW THINGS CAN TURN INTO A NIGHTMARE...
AS ROYALTY, YOU MUST EXCISE THAT THOUGHT FROM YOUR MIND.

SWISH
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
I BELIEVE HE REFUSES TO LEAVE HIS QUARTERS.
THE PRINCESS HAS YET TO MEET WITH THEIR KING.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D FIND ME HERE.
HOW'S THE SITUATION INSIDE THE PALACE?
I OBSERVED GARNA TALKING TO STRANGE PEOPLE...
SIR CARBEAU...
YOU'RE ALL BUSINESS...
THAT WILL COST YOU MORE.
HOW ABOUT THE PRINCESS AND HER HEALER?
THAT BASTARD!


"I'M THE ROYAL APOTHECARY. I DON'T PLAN ON INTERFERING BETWEEN YOU AND SUITABLE SUITORS."
"I'VE BEEN CALLED HERE AS A HEALER, NOT A GUEST."
"IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL AS THE PRINCESS OF THIS COUNTRY..."
I WONDER IF THAT WAS...
...ARGENT'S WAY OF FOOLING HIMSELF AND OTHERS...

AFTER I WAS FREED FROM PRISON, THE KING RECAPTURED ME.
I WANT YOU TO KEEP WATCH ON MY DAUGHTER. SHE JUST LEFT FOR NAVARA."
"YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN NOW THAT YOU'RE A FAILED ASSASSIN."
"I PROMISE I'LL PAY YOU WHAT YOU WANT."
YOUR MAJESTY!
"I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT THE POSSI-BILITY."
"I COULD TAKE THE MONEY AND BETRAY YOU."
I'LL COME HERE TO ENJOY THE SHOW.
SO, I FIGURE THE TRIP IS PAID FOR.
"AFTER ALL, NAVARA IS FOLLOWING THE SAME ROAD AS YOUR FORMER COUNTRY, ROSHNA."
"GARNA, YOU'LL GO TO NAVARA."


DASH
HE'S THE SABOTEUR THAT'S BEEN TROUBLING THE PRINCESS!
GARNA!
YOU BASTARD!
THAT VOICE...
LIBELLA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NICE TO SEE YOU, SIR CARBEAU!
THE BLACK KNIGHT, PLEASE STOP!!
THAT VOICE.... YOU MUST BE...!
I HIRED HER AS MY GUIDE.

I DON'T LIKE YOU AT ALL!
MY KINDNESS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M SORRY. I HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS.
YES, THAT WAS DISGRACEFUL!
GRAB
BUT WHAT I HATE THE MOST...
YOU'RE TIMID AND POMPOUS!
YOU'RE A VOYEUR.
YOU'RE WIMPY.
...IS YOUR TENDENCY TO PULL AWAY WHEN YOU'RE NEEDED.
I...

KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
...BUT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY!
I KNOW YOU MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER ...
CLATTER
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT...
I TOLD YOU THAT I DON'T NEED TO BE CARED FOR...
LADY PRIMU-LA...
ARGENT, HERE'S YOUR DINNER.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER DISGRACEFUL MOVE...
YOU STRIPPED ME DOWN BEFORE! ENOUGH OF BEING SHY! BE A MAN!
LADY... ...PRIMULA!
JUMP
I HAVE TO HELP YOU CHANGE!

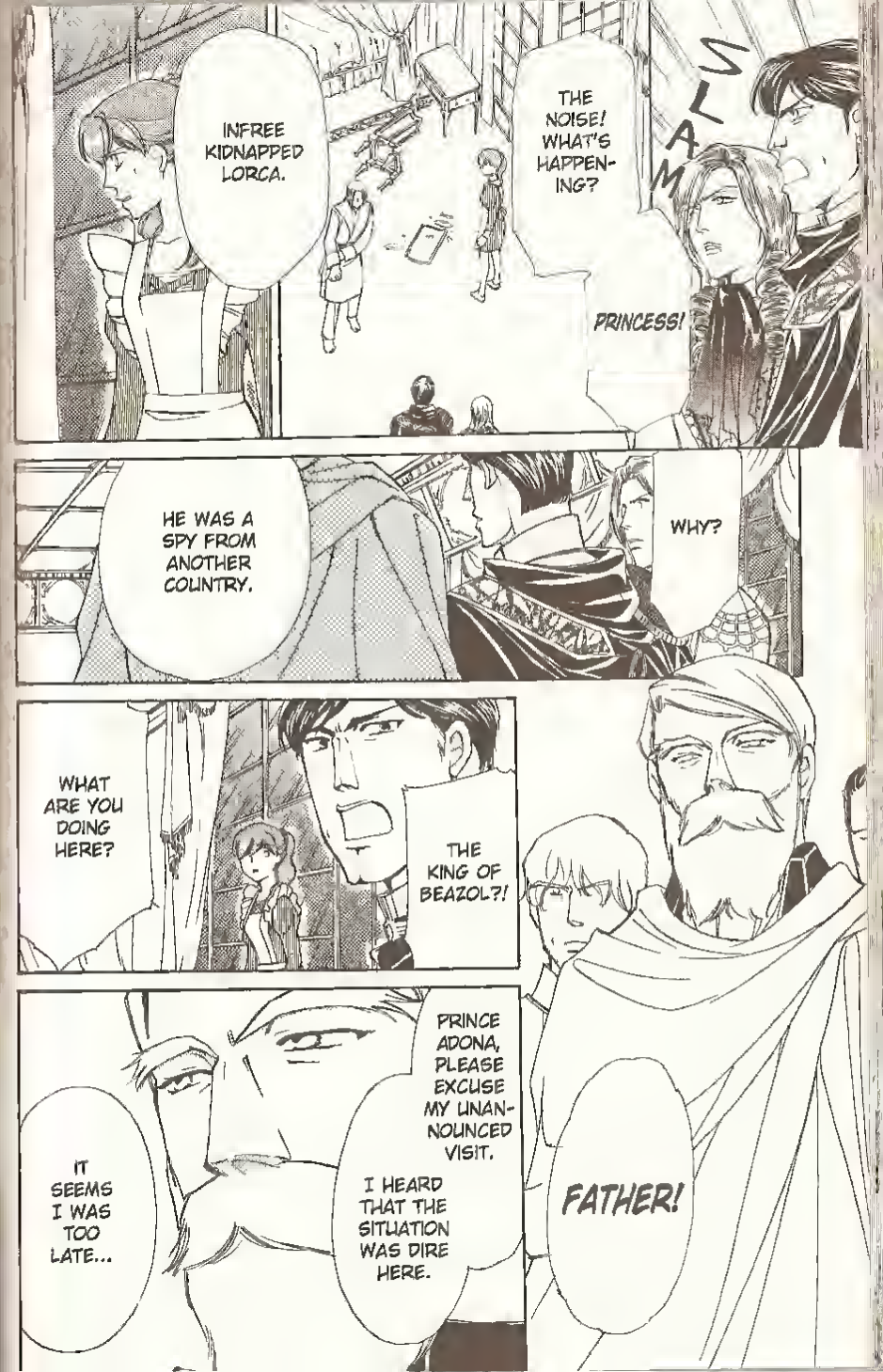
CRASH!!
I HEARD HE WAS RECOVERING WELL.
ARGENT'S WATCHING HER, RIGHT?
ARGENT'S NO GOOD AT THE MOMENT.
DAMN! I LEFT THE PRINCESS' SIDE WHILE I WAS TRAILING GARNA!
WHAT?
HE'S NO LONGER POISONOUS.
INFREE, IT WAS YOU!!

KNOCK KNOCK
JOLT
I ACTUALLY...
OH, INFREE! YOU SCARED ME.
CLICK
EXCUSE ME.
?!
PRINCESS! LOOK OUT!

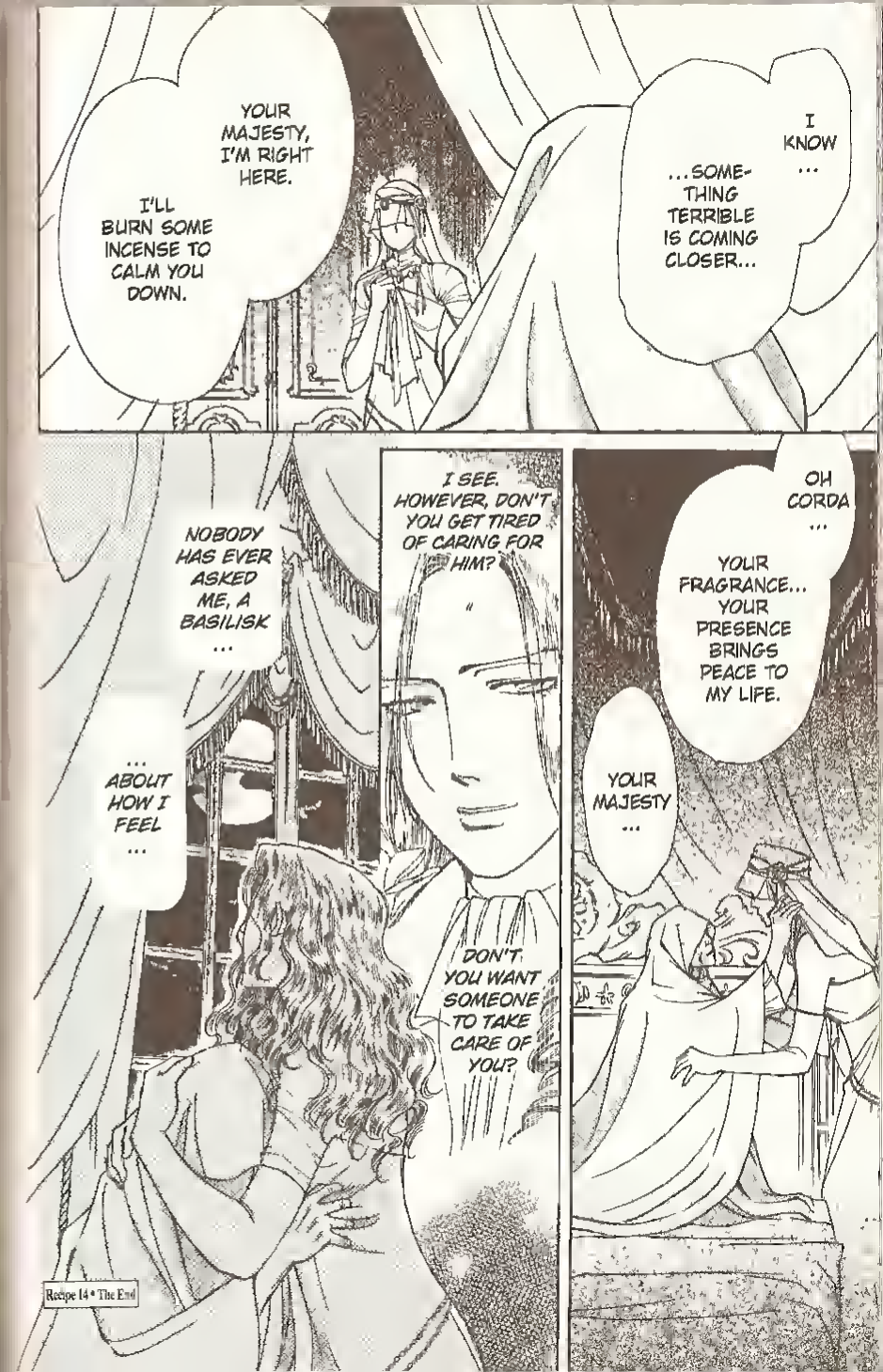
GRAB
INFREE, WAIT!
DAMN, THE BASILISK SCRATCHED ME!
LORCA!
SHOVE

YOU SAVED LORCA'S LIFE IN BEAZOL!
A PARASITE MUST NOT LOSE HIS HOST.
I NEEDED TO GAIN SOMEONE'S TRUST TO KNOW THE INSIDE SECRETS.
WHY?
YOU WERE THE SABOTEUR!
WE CANNOT HAVE BEAZOL AND NAVARA JOIN TOGETHER IN AN ALLIANCE.
PARASITISM IS A METHOD OF SURVIVAL.
PRINCE LORCA, YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH INSECTS, SO YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.
ITZ
ITZ
WHUMP
WHOOSH
PRINCE LORCA, THIS MAY BE RUDE, BUT...

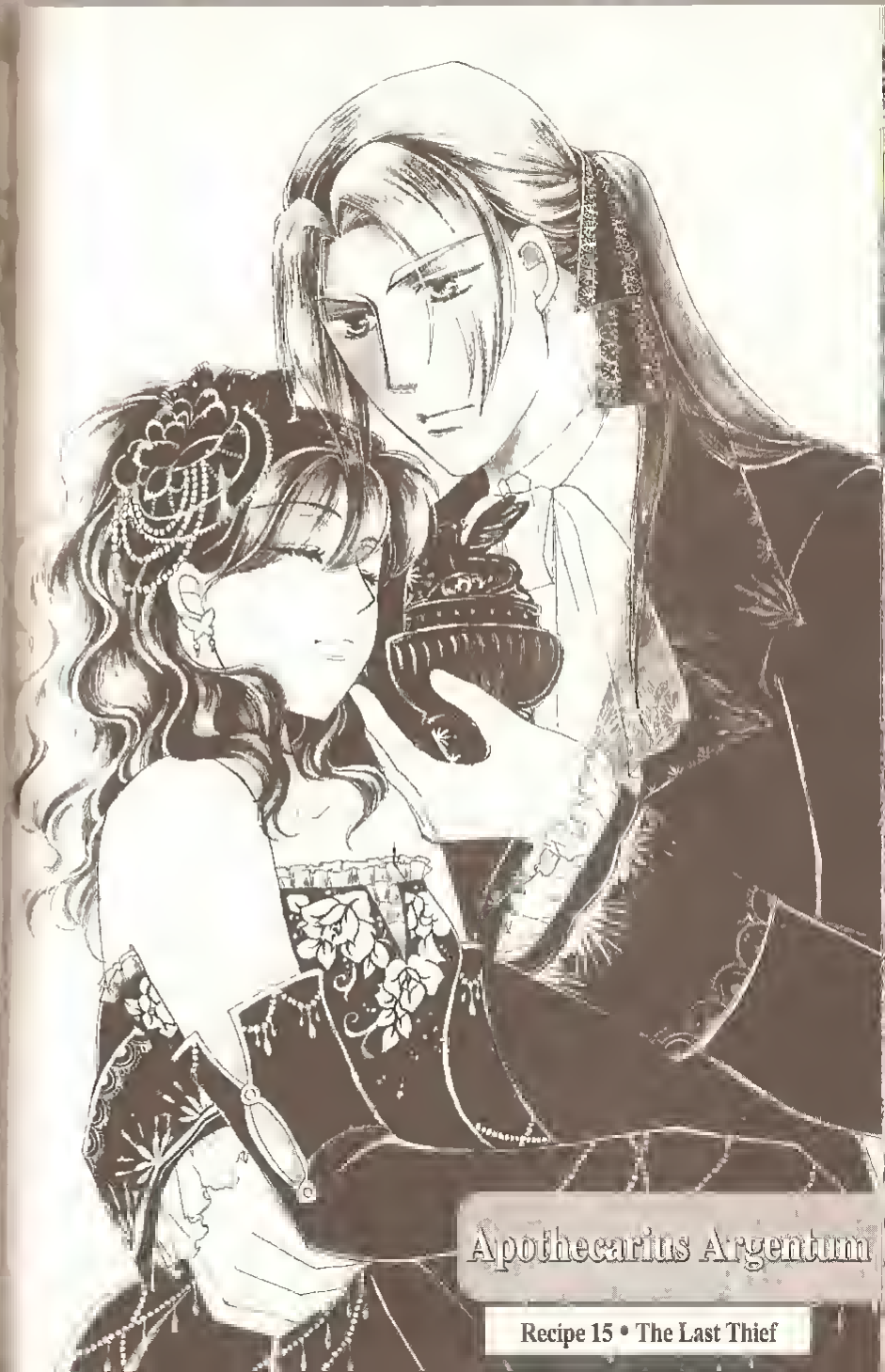
FORTUNATELY, HE WAS NOT KILLED, ACCORDING TO HIM, THE ASSASSIN USED A SWORD WITH THE SEAL OF NAVARA.
HE WAS ATTACKED BEFORE HE REACHED YOU.
I FOUND MY MESSENGER THAT WAS SENT FROM BEAZOL TO NAVARA.
HE HAD BEEN TRICKING US?! HE'S SERVED LORCA FOR YEARS!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE REACHING THE END OF THE LINE?
PRINCE ADONA, YOU'VE ALSO BEEN HIDING THE TRUTH FROM OTHERS.
YOU THINK IT WAS INFREE?
I HEAR THE KING HAS GONE MAD.


INFREE KIDNAPPED LORCA.
THE NOISE! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SLAM
PRINCESS!
HE WAS A SPY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
WHY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THE KING OF BEAZOL?!
IT SEEMS I WAS TOO LATE...
PRINCE ADONA, PLEASE EXCUSE MY UNANNOUNCED VISIT.
I HEARD THAT THE SITUATION WAS DIRE HERE.
FATHER!

PRINCE LORCA WAS KIDNAPPED BY INFREE?
Navara Palace.
Navara is a kingdom that borders Beazol.
HE'S SERVED LORCA FOR YEARS!
PRINCE ADONA, PRINCE DANIEL... DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE REACHED THE END OF THE LINE?
HE HAD BEEN TRICKING US?
HE WAS A SPY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.
FATHER, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
!
PRINCE ADONA! WE HAVE A MESSAGE FROM CAMP IN THE WEST!
SLAM
KING OF BEAZOL, HOW DARE YOU MAKE SUCH ACCUSATIONS!
I HEAR THE KING HAS GONE MAD.
IT MUST BE HARD TO KEEP THE TRUTH FROM YOUR SUBJECTS.


YOUR MAJESTY, I'M RIGHT HERE.
I'LL BURN SOME INCENSE TO CALM YOU DOWN.
I KNOW ...
...SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS COMING CLOSER...
NOBODY HAS EVER ASKED ME, A BASILISK ...
...ABOUT HOW I FEEL ...
I SEE. HOWEVER, DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF CARING FOR HIM?
DON'T YOU WANT SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU?
OH CORDA ...
YOUR FRAGRANCE... YOUR PRESENCE BRINGS PEACE TO MY LIFE.
YOUR MAJESTY ...
Recipe 14 • The End

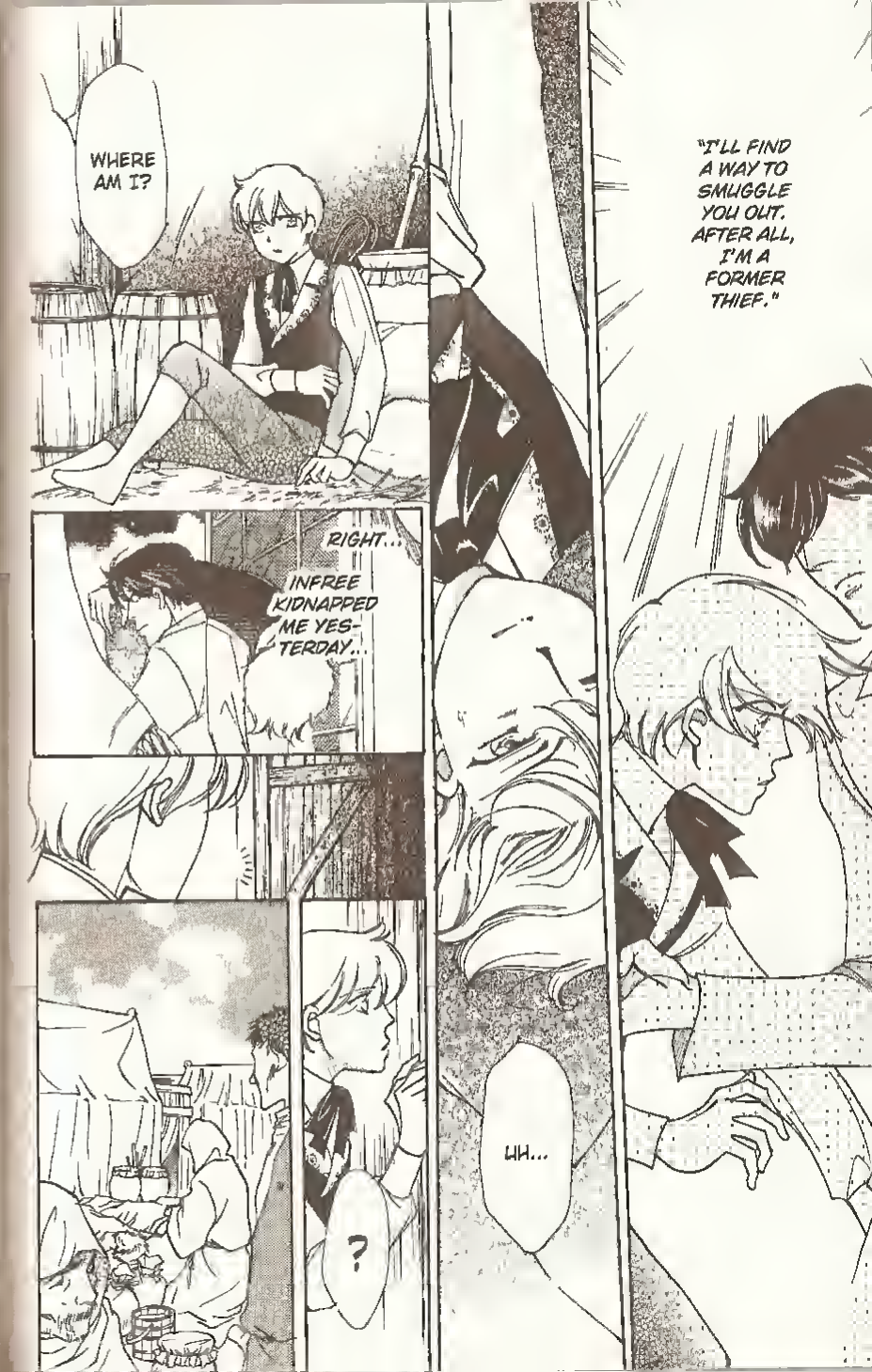
Several Months Later
Navara Palace
HEY, INFREE...
DO YOU SEE FEWER BUGS NOW?
I SEE...
I BELIEVE THAT'S BECAUSE THE LAND IS BECOMING DEPLETED.
IT'S NOT JUST THE LAND. THE PEOPLE ARE ALSO SUFFERING THE SAME DISEASE AS YOU, PRINCE.
WHAT?
PRINCE LORCA, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE NAVARA?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE CASTLE.
IF YOU STAY COOPED UP IN THIS CASTLE, THINGS WILL NEVER CHANGE.
WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND THE CURE OUTSIDE OF THIS COUNTRY!



Apothecarius Argentum

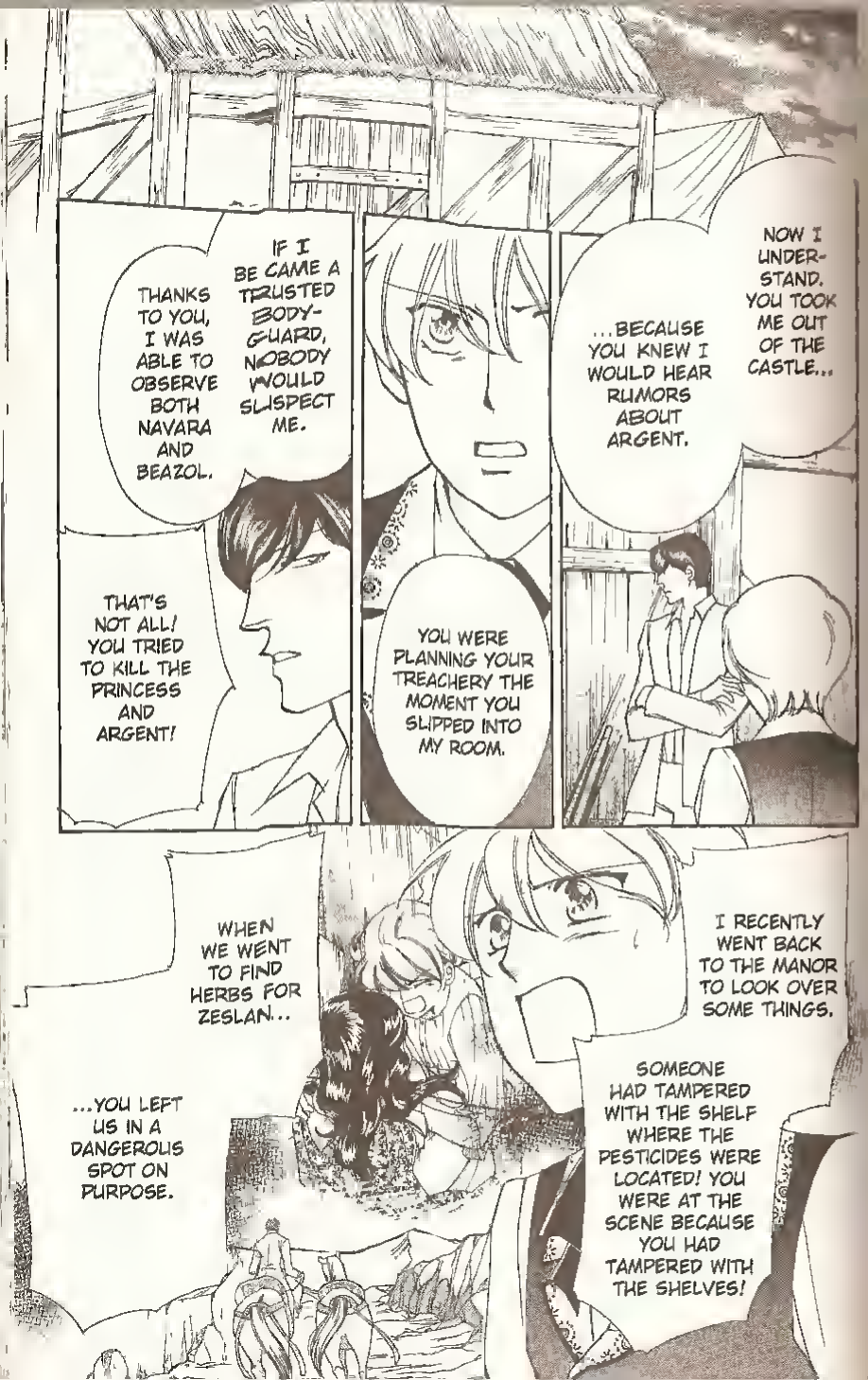
Recipe 15 • The Last Thief

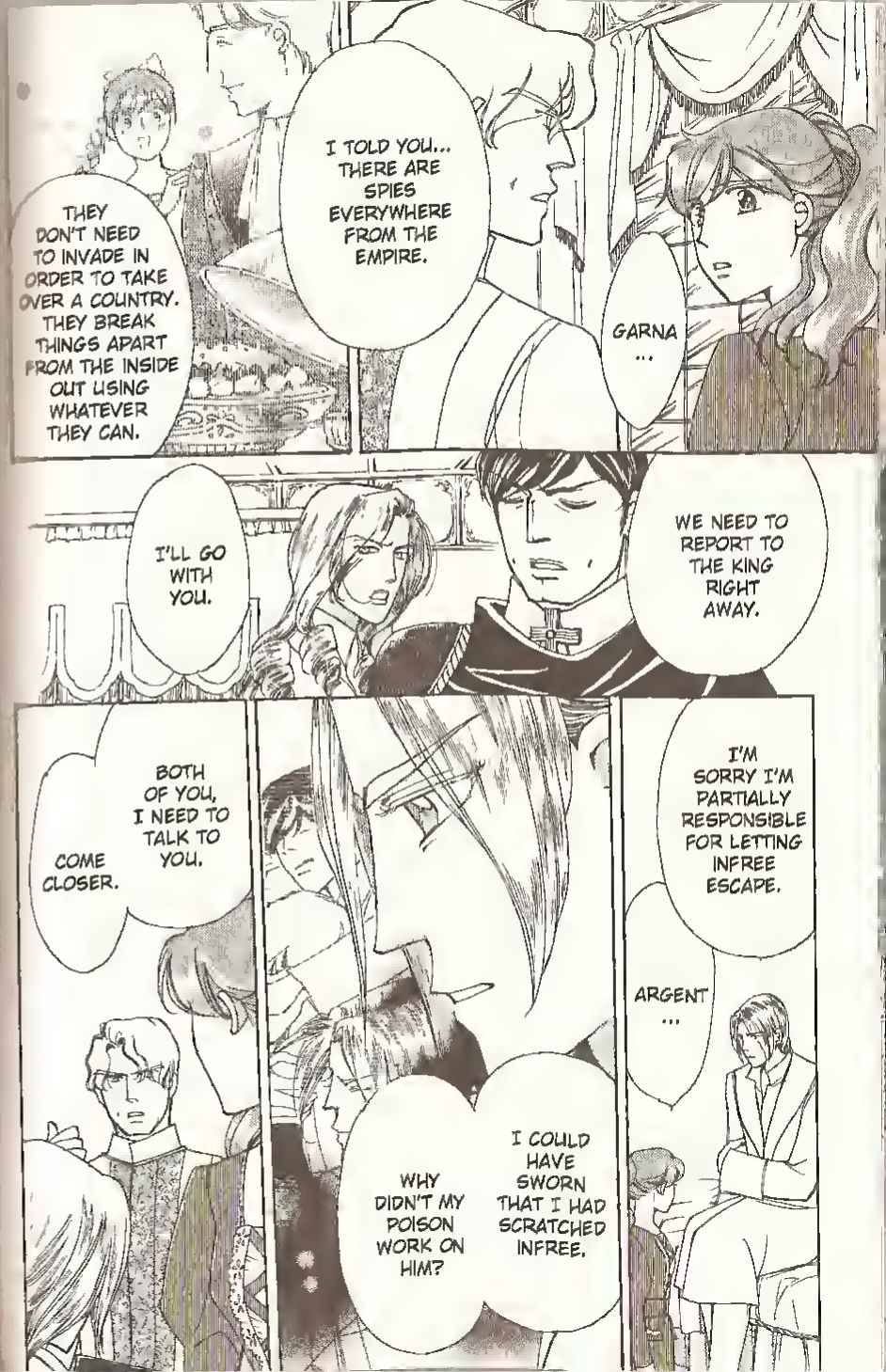
WE WON'T HAVE TO FEAR THE SOLDIERS NOW THAT WE HAVE THESE RIFLES!
THIS IS GREAT!
INFREE'S BROUGHT IN MORE GOODS!
THUD
THIS MUST BE THE CONCENTRATION CAMP THAT PEOPLE HAVE TALKED ABOUT...
GATHER AROUND, EVERYONE!
WE'RE GOING TO BRING THE CASTLE DOWN!
THAT WAS THE NOISEMAKER THAT INJURED ARGENT!
CLKK
GO INSIDE UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE SLICED TO RIBBONS, PRINCE LORCA.
THIS IS SERIOUS!
I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO WARN MY BROTHERS!


WHERE AM I?
RIGHT... INFREE KIDNAPPED ME YESTERDAY...
?
UH...
"I'LL FIND A WAY TO SMUGGLE YOU OUT. AFTER ALL, I'M A FORMER THIEF."

IT SAYS, "IN EXCHANGE FOR PRINCE LORCA'S LIFE, THE ROYAL FAMILY MUST LEAVE THE PALACE AND FREE THE PEOPLE IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS."
THEY USED TO RIOT EVERY NOW AND THEN.
NEVER THOUGHT THEY WOULD GO SO FAR...
HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ENDANGER YOUR LIFE. HE MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT ONCE IN A WHILE TO GIVE ORDERS TO PEOPLE.
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH INFREE?
YOU'LL BE OUR HOSTAGE TO FURTHER OUR PLAN ALONG.
THE KING OF NAVARA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HIS PEOPLE. HE CAN GO TO HELL!

SO, THAT WAS YOUR PLAN.
BRING THE PALACE DOWN...
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT EASY TO ACQUIRE SO MANY WEAPONS.
ACTUALLY, I SHOULD SAY THAT'S THE GOAL OF THE PEOPLE THAT HIRED YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY SAID IF WE'RE GOING TO BRING DOWN NAVARA'S KING...
THEY WILL SUPPORT US, USING INFREE.
IT MUST BE THE EMPIRE FORMING IN THE SOUTH...
WE'RE ALREADY RECEIVING AID FROM BEAZOL!
BEAZOL'S BEEN THE CAUSE OF OUR SUFFERING FOR TOO LONG. WE CAN'T TRUST THEM.

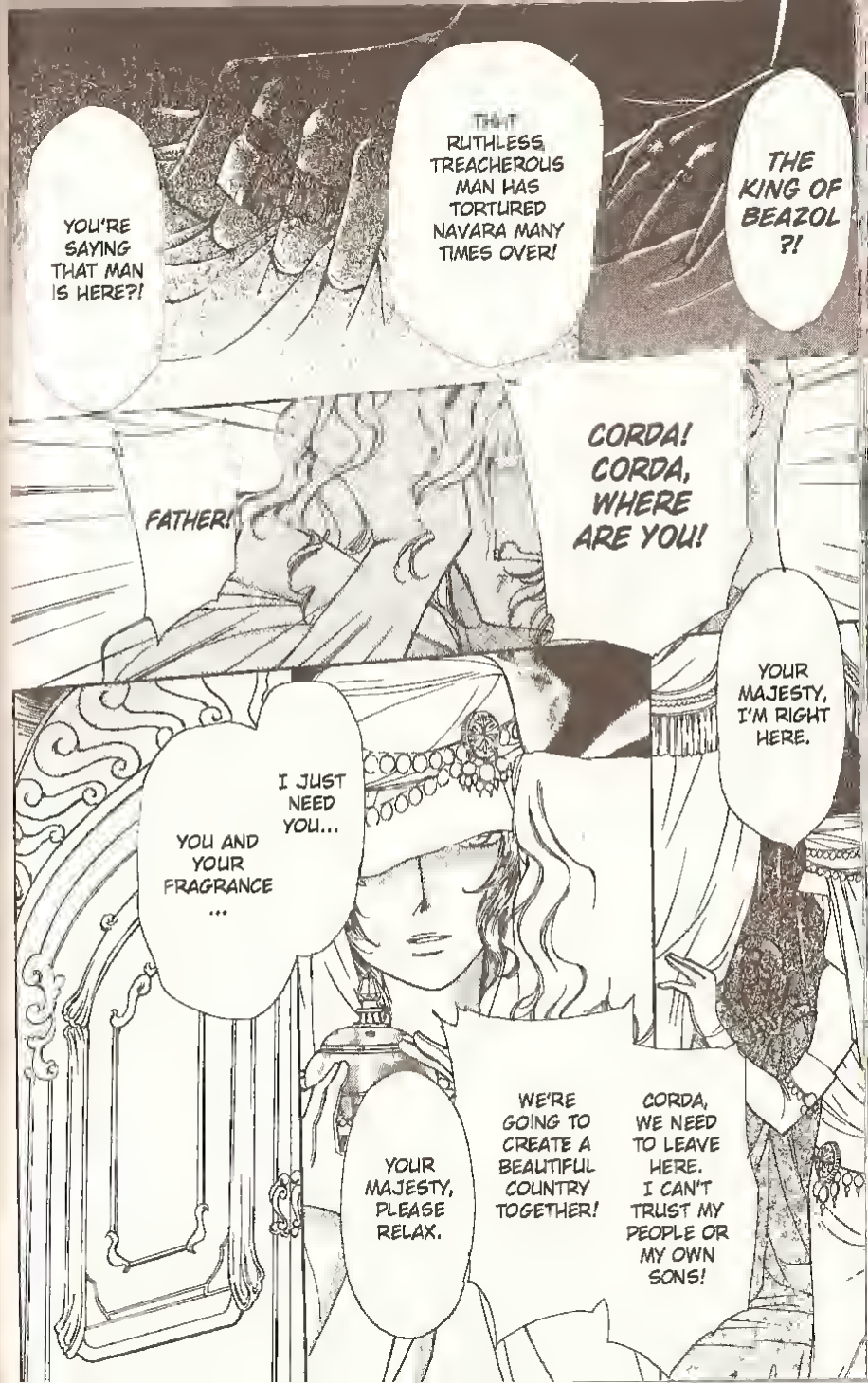

THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE BOTH NAVARA AND BEAZOL.
IF I BE CAME A TRUSTED BODY-GUARD, NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT ME.
THAT'S NOT ALL! YOU TRIED TO KILL THE PRINCESS AND ARGENT!
YOU WERE PLANNING YOUR TREACHERY THE MOMENT YOU SLIPPED INTO MY ROOM.
...BECAUSE YOU KNEW I WOULD HEAR RUMORS ABOUT ARGENT.
NOW I UNDER-STAND. YOU TOOK ME OUT OF THE CASTLE...
WHEN WE WENT TO FIND HERBS FOR ZESLAN...
...YOU LEFT US IN A DANGEROUS SPOT ON PURPOSE.
I RECENTLY WENT BACK TO THE MANOR TO LOOK OVER SOME THINGS.
SOMEONE HAD TAMPERED WITH THE SHELF WHERE THE PESTICIDES WERE LOCATED! YOU WERE AT THE SCENE BECAUSE YOU HAD TAMPERED WITH THE SHELVES!


THEY DON'T NEED TO INVADE IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER A COUNTRY. THEY BREAK THINGS APART FROM THE INSIDE OUT USING WHATEVER THEY CAN.
I TOLD YOU... THERE ARE SPIES EVERYWHERE FROM THE EMPIRE.
GARNA ...
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
WE NEED TO REPORT TO THE KING RIGHT AWAY.
COME CLOSER.
BOTH OF YOU, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
I'M SORRY I'M PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING INFREE ESCAPE.
ARGENT ...
WHY DIDN'T MY POISON WORK ON HIM?
I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT I HAD SCRATCHED INFREE.

FATHER, I BEG OF YOU.
IN ORDER TO SAVE LORCA AND OUR PEOPLE...
CAN WE FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THEIR DEMAND?
FATHER!!
I DON'T HAVE A SON NAMED LORCA.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE! BURN ANYONE THAT OPPOSES ME! BURN THE ENTIRE LOT OF THEM!
WHO DO THEY THINK I AM? THEY CAN'T ABIDE BY MY RULE?!
!
FATHER, I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE ...
...THAT THE KING OF BEAZOL IS HERE, ALONG WITH HIS DAUGHTER.
BROTHER!

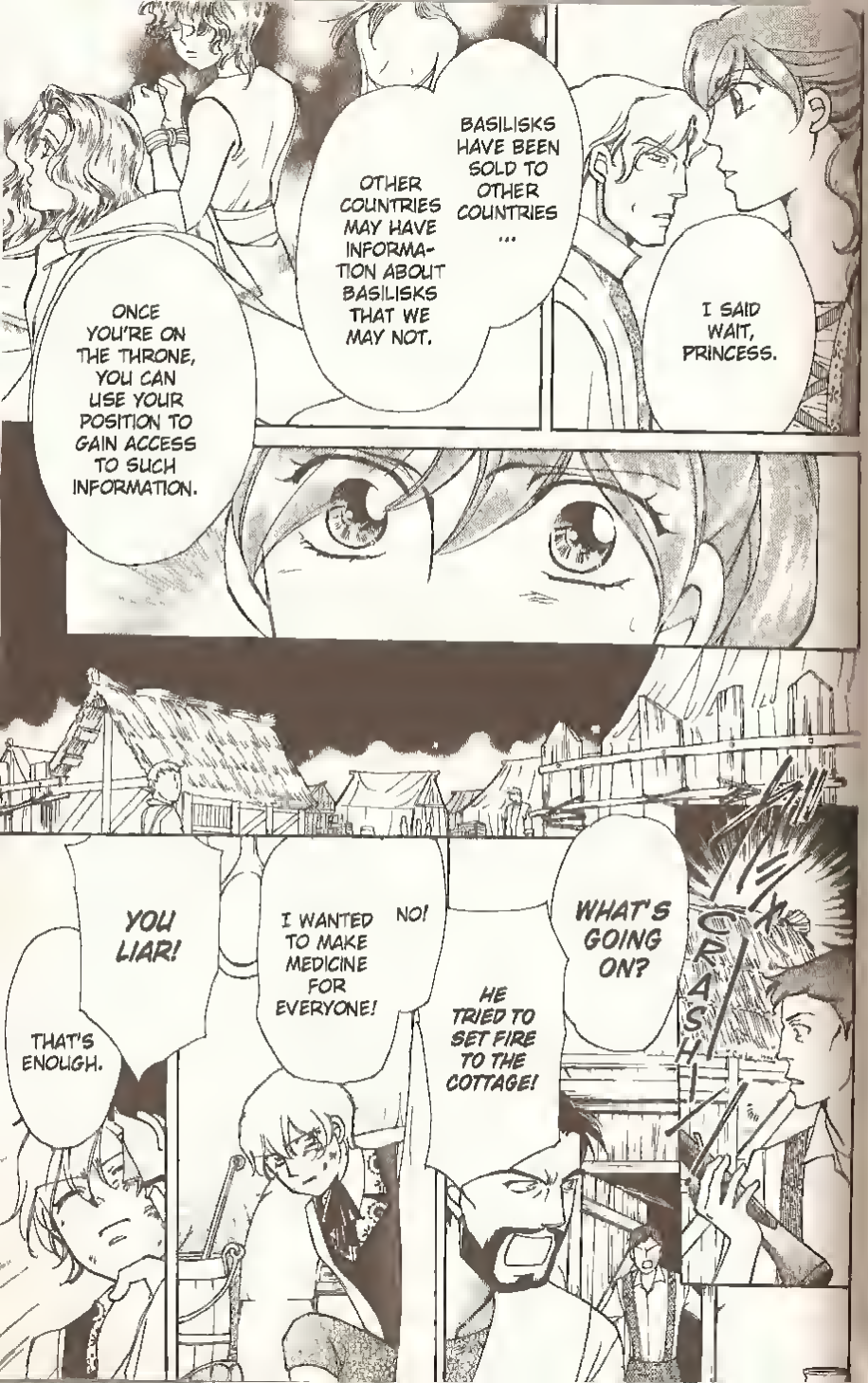
WHAT?!
NEVER MIND! WE JUST CAN'T HAVE NAVARA JOIN BEAZOL.
ALL MY PLANS FAILED, THANKS TO THE DAMNED HEALER!
I NEVER IMAGINED THERE WAS ANOTHER BASILISK...
YOU KIDNAPPED ME AS A LAST RESORT!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I HAVE NO VALUE AS A HOSTAGE!
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE!
SLASH!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

NOBODY WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WOULD DEPLETE THE SOIL. BY THE TIME MY FATHER BECAME KING, IT WAS TOO LATE.
HE HAD IMPLEMENTED NEW TECHNOLOGY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CATCH UP TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
NAVARA HAD GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM BEAZOL NOT SO LONG AGO.
MY FATHER USED TO BE A GOOD KING.
MY FATHER MUST BE INSANE TO ABANDON HIS SON AND HIS PEOPLE.
KING OF BEAZOL, YOU'RE CORRECT.
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KILL YOUR FATHER AND BE REGARDED AS A TRAITOR?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE OVER THE THRONE BY FORCE?


YOUR MAJESTY, I'M RIGHT HERE.
CORDA, WE NEED TO LEAVE HERE. I CAN'T TRUST MY PEOPLE OR MY OWN SONS!
WE'RE GOING TO CREATE A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY TOGETHER!
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE RELAX.
YOU AND YOUR FRAGRANCE ...
I JUST NEED YOU...
FATHER!
CORDA! CORDA, WHERE ARE YOU!
THAT RUTHLESS, TREACHEROUS MAN HAS TORTURED NAVARA MANY TIMES OVER!
THE KING OF BEAZOL?!
YOU'RE SAYING THAT MAN IS HERE?!

I WAS RIGHT.
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GARNA?
HE ESCAPED BECAUSE YOUR TOXICITY IS WEAKENING.
ARGENT, INFREE DIDN'T ESCAPE BECAUSE HE WAS RESISTANT TO YOUR POISON.
PEARLS ARE THE RESULT OF FOREIGN OBJECTS LIKE SAND ENTERING INTO THE BODY, AND THE BODY ENCAPSULATING THE FOREIGN OBJECT.
THE PEARL IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.
WHEN A FOREIGN OBJECT ENTERS THE BODY, THE BODY TRIES TO PROTECT ITSELF.
I BELIEVE IT'S THE BULLET INSIDE YOU.
WHEN I WAS TREATING YOU, I REALIZED THIS.

"IF WE DON'T HAVE LAND, WE'LL TAKE MORE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES!"
"I DON'T NEED SICK PEASANTS! GET RID OF THEM!"
HE STARTED TAKING NUMEROUS LOVERS TO EASE HIS WORRIES.
MY FATHER COULD NOT SLEEP.
"I THINK THE SITUATION IS TOO LATE. IF THERE'S PROLONGED CONFUSION DURING THE SUCCESSION CONFLICT, OTHER COUNTRIES WILL USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRY AND TAKE OVER."
"I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD TAKE THE THRONE, ADONA."
"FATHER IS NO LONGER MAKING SENSE."
"WE SHOULD WAIT IT OUT AND MAKE SURE NOBODY ELSE KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING."
"WHAT SHOULD WE DO?"
I NEVER KNEW THE SITUATION WAS SO DIRE.
YOU FIGURED A MAD KING WAS BETTER THAN MAKING WAVES...


I SAID WAIT, PRINCESS.
BASILISKS HAVE BEEN SOLD TO OTHER COUNTRIES ...
OTHER COUNTRIES MAY HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT BASILISKS THAT WE MAY NOT.
ONCE YOU'RE ON THE THRONE, YOU CAN USE YOUR POSITION TO GAIN ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CRASH!
HE TRIED TO SET FIRE TO THE COTTAGE!
NO!
I WANTED TO MAKE MEDICINE FOR EVERYONE!
YOU LIAR!
THAT'S ENOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR TOXICITY HAS WEAKENED.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT IN A LOCATION THAT WOULD CAUSE HARM.
IS THAT SAFE?
I THOUGHT YOUR BODY MIGHT BE SIMILAR. I THOUGHT WE MIGHT SEE SOME CHANGES WHILE THE BULLET WAS IN YOUR BODY.
HENCE, I DIDN'T REMOVE THE BULLET.
WANT TO TEST IT OUT?
ARGENT CAN HAVE A NORMAL BODY?
IS THAT REALLY POSSIBLE?

SLIP
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU, SO DO WHAT YOU NEED.
I DON'T WANT YOU CAUSING TROUBLE.
THANKING A THIEF... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
CAR-BEAU...
TAKE A FAST HORSE TO THE BORDER. I'VE GOT AN ARMY WAITING.
FATHER! ARGENT'S--
THE KING ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT ARGENT'S CONDITION.
THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME.
ARGENT, WE MUST TELL THE KING.
THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME!

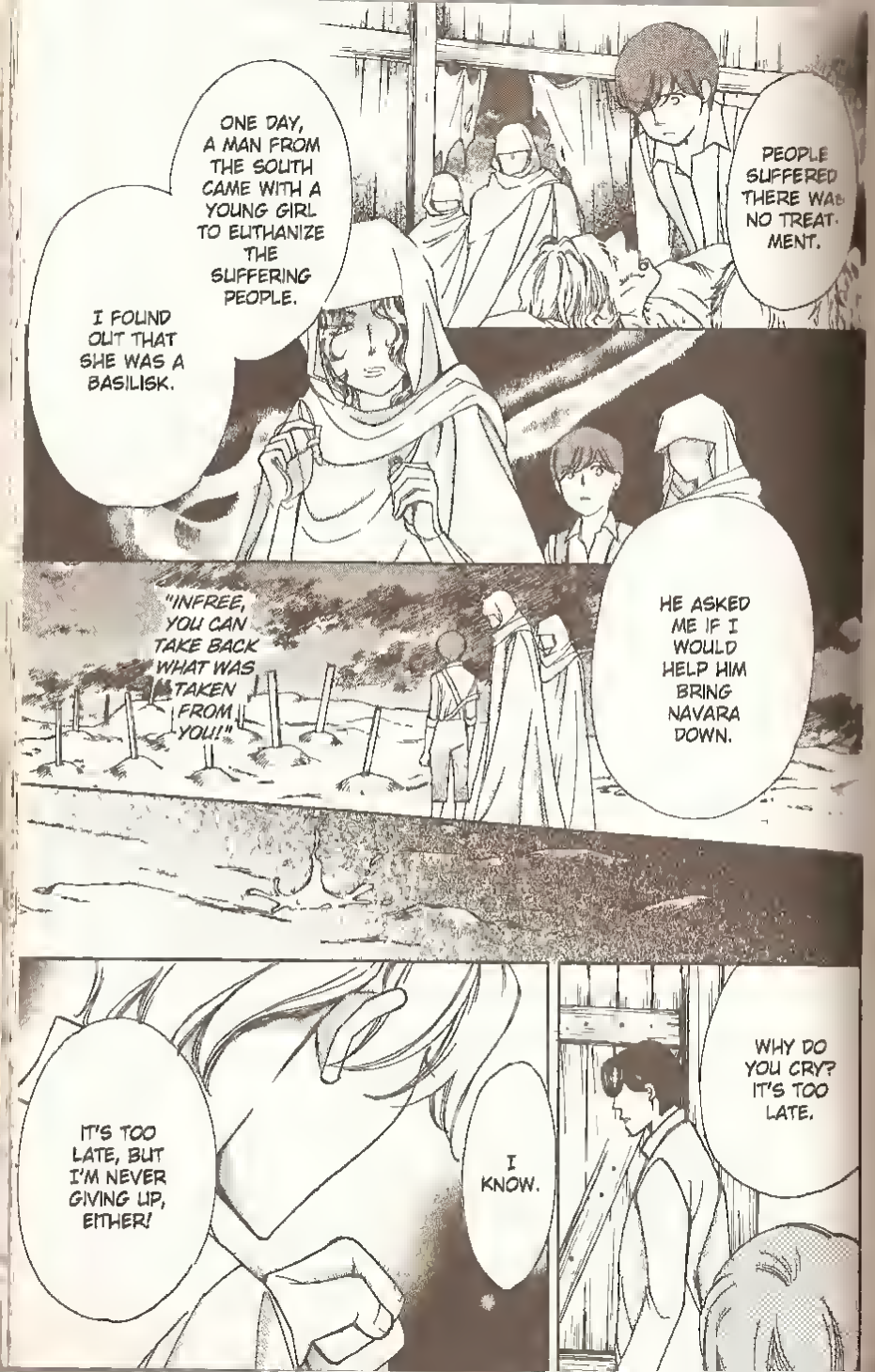
IN THESE CIRCUM-STANCES? ARE YOU STUPID?
YOU TRIED TO MAKE CHAR-COAL?
DAMMIT!
SHOVE
HE'S AN IMPORTANT HOSTAGE.
NOW, AFTER I'VE EXPERIENCED LIFE AND MET MANY PEOPLE, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
I NEVER MINDED DYING BEFORE.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE.
I'M NOT ANGRY THAT YOU'VE BETRAYED ME.
I FOUND LIFE BECAUSE YOU TOOK ME OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU, INFREE.

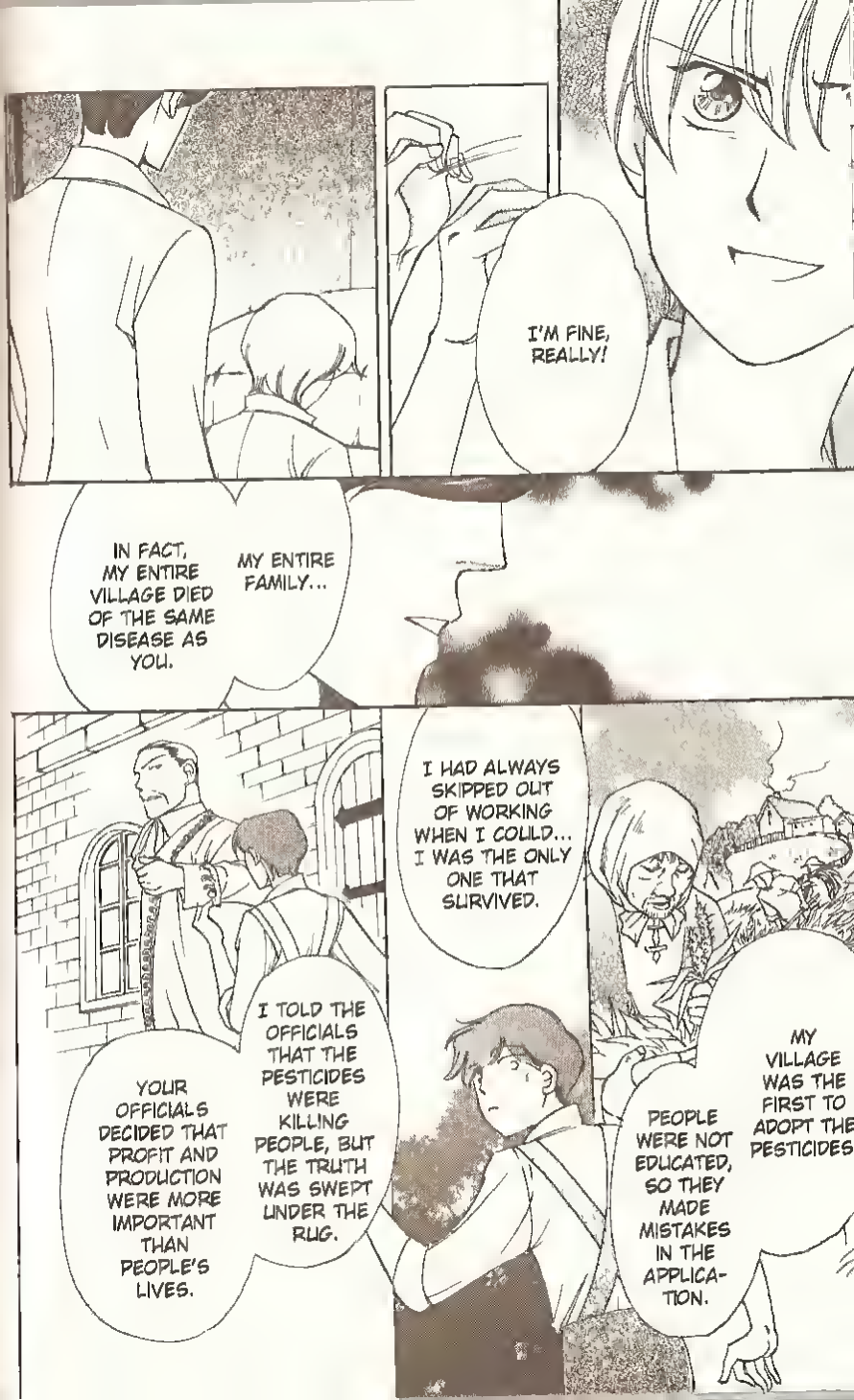
AS FOR PRINCE ADONA, HE'S NOT DECISIVE ENOUGH TO BE A POWERFUL KING.
"WE'LL BE ALLIES IN NO TIME! EASY PEASY!"
IN FACT, YOU LEFT WITHOUT ANY TIMELINE, MONETARY AID, OR PLAN!
YOUR MISTAKES COST OUR PEASANTS. YOUR ALLOWANCES AND FOOD WON'T MAKE UP FOR THE COST.
YOU MUST FORCE REASON AND OPPORTUNITY WHEN YOU HAVE TO!
YOU NEED TO SACRIFICE SOMETHING IN ORDER TO MAKE GAINS.
IF YOU SENT FOR YOUR ARMY, WHAT ABOUT LORCA?
JOLT

FATHER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HE WAS USING YOU TO DISTRACT NAVARA'S KING, AND SENT ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU...
HE'S BEEN PLANNING TO TAKE OVER NAVARA THE WHOLE TIME.
THIS KINGDOM HAS NO FUTURE. WE HAVE TO MAKE AN ARMED MOVE!
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER THIS KINGDOM IN ONE CAMPAIGN!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SENT ME HERE FOR THAT REASON!
THAT'S CALLED POLITICS, PRIMULA.
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GET A PEACE AGREEMENT, RIGHT?
ANY MORE FIGHTING BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BE DEPLETING.
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ

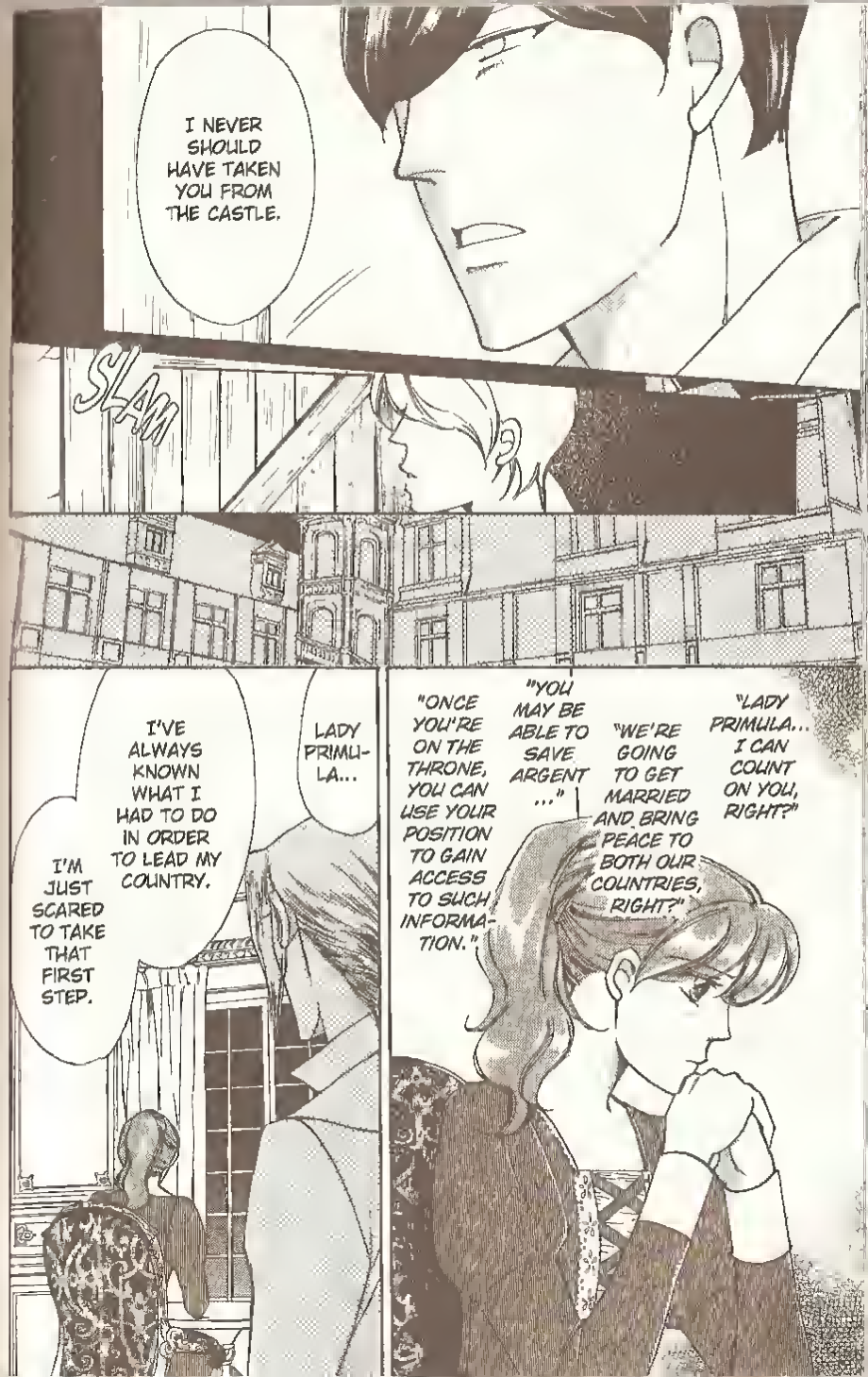
I'M SURE NEWS ABOUT ARGENT IS PRECIPITATING THIS.
THE KING HAS TURNED TO A BOLD PLAN...
ROOOAR
YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY TREATMENT FOR 2 DAYS NOW.
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
WAVER

WILL YOU SACRIFICE SOMETHING, MY DAUGHTER?
I DON'T WANT TO SACRIFICE LORCA. HE'S A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN.
IF LORCA IS A WORTHY PRINCE, THE KING OF NAVARA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PEACE TREATY.
YOU CAN MARRY HIM TO FACILITATE A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROTECT LORCA.
IT'S ALMOST DAYBREAK. YOU DON'T HAVE VERY LONG.
I NEED TIME TO THINK.
...


ONE DAY, A MAN FROM THE SOUTH CAME WITH A YOUNG GIRL TO EUTHANIZE THE SUFFERING PEOPLE.
PEOPLE SUFFERED THERE WAS NO TREATMENT.
I FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS A BASILISK.
"INFREE, YOU CAN TAKE BACK WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM YOU!!"
HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD HELP HIM BRING NAVARA DOWN.
IT'S TOO LATE, BUT I'M NEVER GIVING UP, EITHER!
I KNOW.
WHY DO YOU CRY? IT'S TOO LATE.


I'M FINE, REALLY!
IN FACT, MY ENTIRE VILLAGE DIED OF THE SAME DISEASE AS YOU.
MY ENTIRE FAMILY...
I HAD ALWAYS SKIPPED OUT OF WORKING WHEN I COULD... I WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT SURVIVED.
YOUR OFFICIALS DECIDED THAT PROFIT AND PRODUCTION WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PEOPLE'S LIVES.
I TOLD THE OFFICIALS THAT THE PESTICIDES WERE KILLING PEOPLE, BUT THE TRUTH WAS SWEPT UNDER THE RUG.
PEOPLE WERE NOT EDUCATED, SO THEY MADE MISTAKES IN THE APPLICATION.
MY VILLAGE WAS THE FIRST TO ADOPT THE PESTICIDES

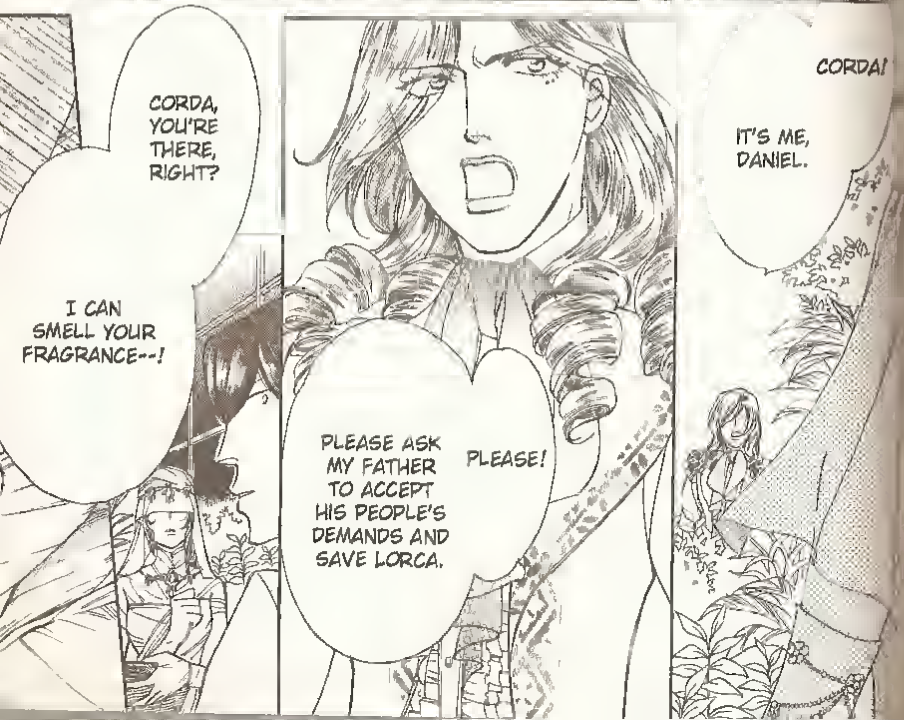
IT'S A LONELY PATH I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT WAY TO THINK ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
SOMETIMES, I WISH ARGENT WOULD JUST SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET AND TAKE ME FAR, FAR AWAY...
PRINCESS, YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE.
ARGENT ...
YOU'LL HAVE LORCA. I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS SAFE.
I'M GOING TO GO SECURE HIM BEFORE THE KING SENDS HIS TROOPS.

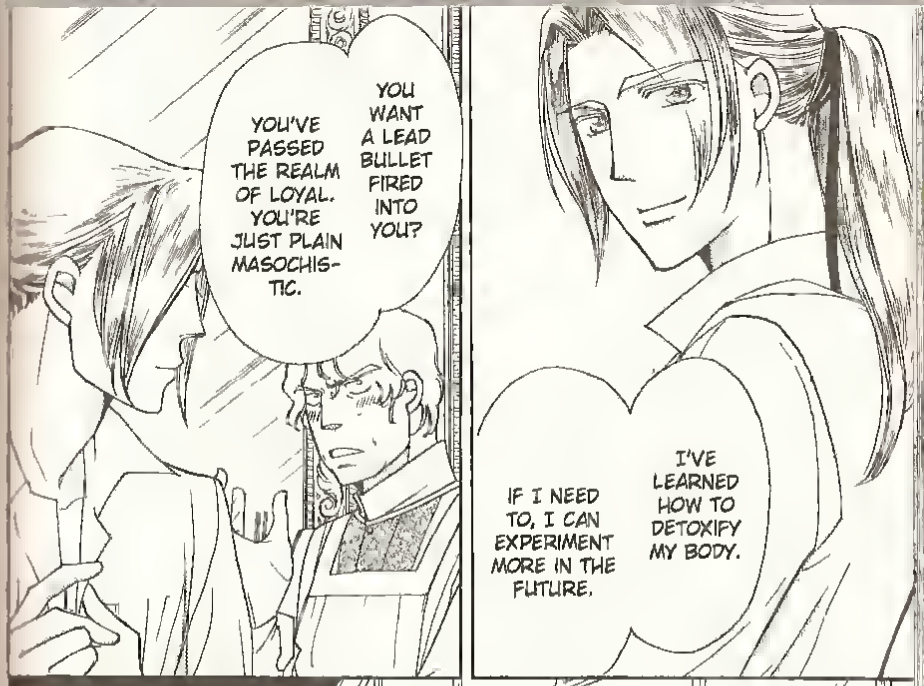

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU FROM THE CASTLE.
SLAM
LADY PRIMULA...
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHAT I HAD TO DO IN ORDER TO LEAD MY COUNTRY.
I'M JUST SCARED TO TAKE THAT FIRST STEP.
"ONCE YOU'RE ON THE THRONE, YOU CAN USE YOUR POSITION TO GAIN ACCESS TO SUCH INFORMATION."
"YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE ARGENT ..."
"WE'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED AND BRING PEACE TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, RIGHT?"
"LADY PRIMULA... I CAN COUNT ON YOU, RIGHT?"

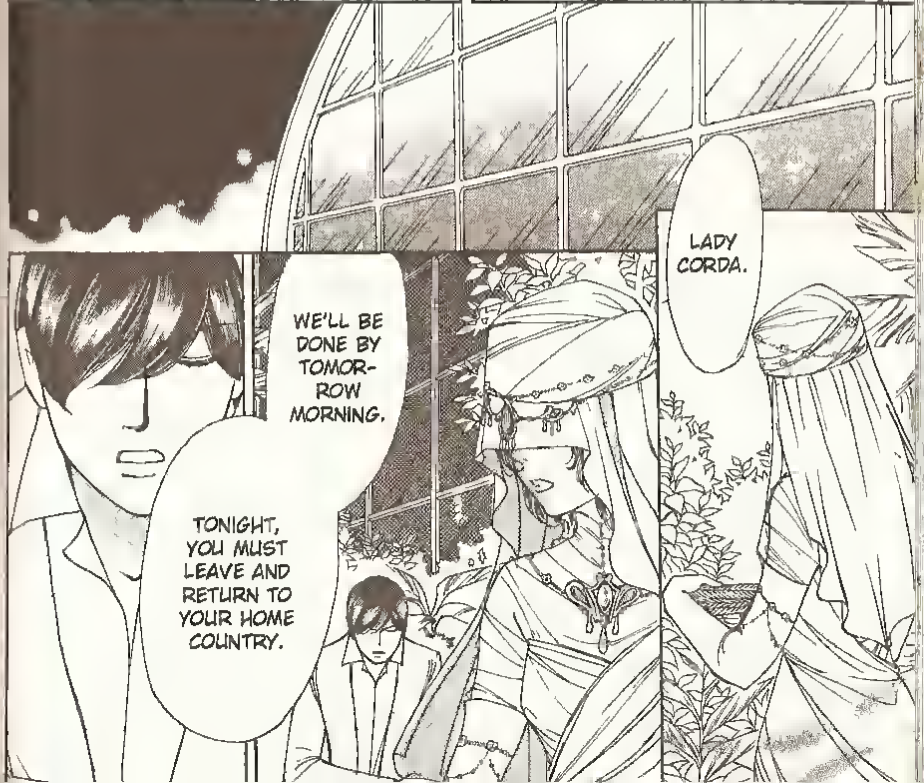
I HAVE ENOUGH POISON LEFT FOR AN UNRULY PRINCESS.
SLUMP
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
TINK
ARGENT, NO!
YOU'RE NO LONGER POISONOUS! YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO BE USEFUL!
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WE'VE PUSHED THE PEOPLE ENOUGH. I'M SURE THEY'LL COMPLETE THIS ON THEIR OWN.
I UNDERSTAND, INFREE. YOU SHOULD ALSO PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

RUSTLE
I HAVE A DEBT TO YOU, LADY CORDA.
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER ME ALL THIS TIME.

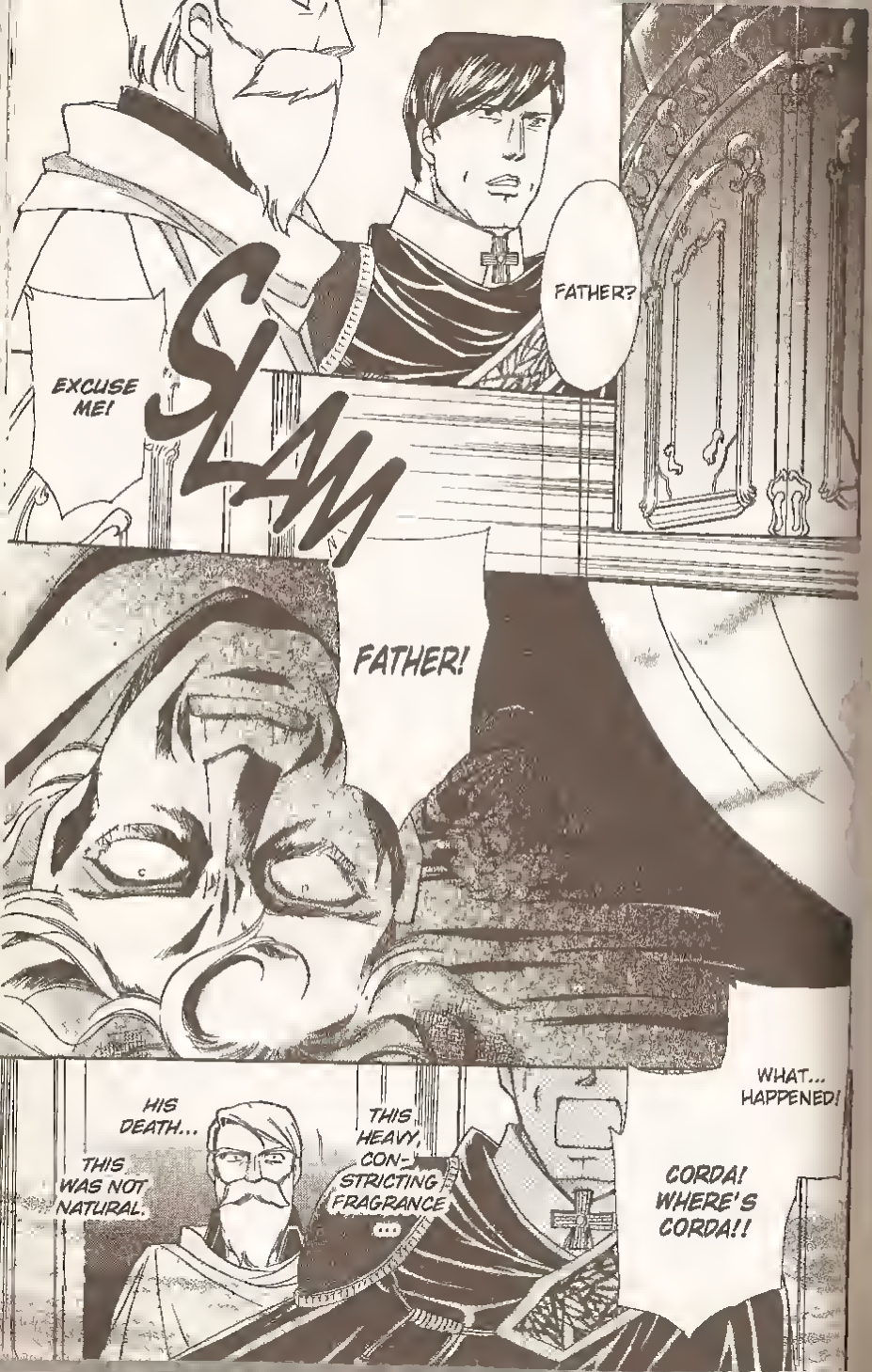

CORDA, YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT?
I CAN SMELL YOUR FRAGRANCE--!
PLEASE ASK MY FATHER TO ACCEPT HIS PEOPLE'S DEMANDS AND SAVE LORCA.
PLEASE!
CORDA!
IT'S ME, DANIEL.


YOU WANT A LEAD BULLET FIRED INTO YOU?
YOU'VE PASSED THE REALM OF LOYAL. YOU'RE JUST PLAIN MASOCHISTIC.
I'VE LEARNED HOW TO DETOXIFY MY BODY.
IF I NEED TO, I CAN EXPERIMENT MORE IN THE FUTURE.

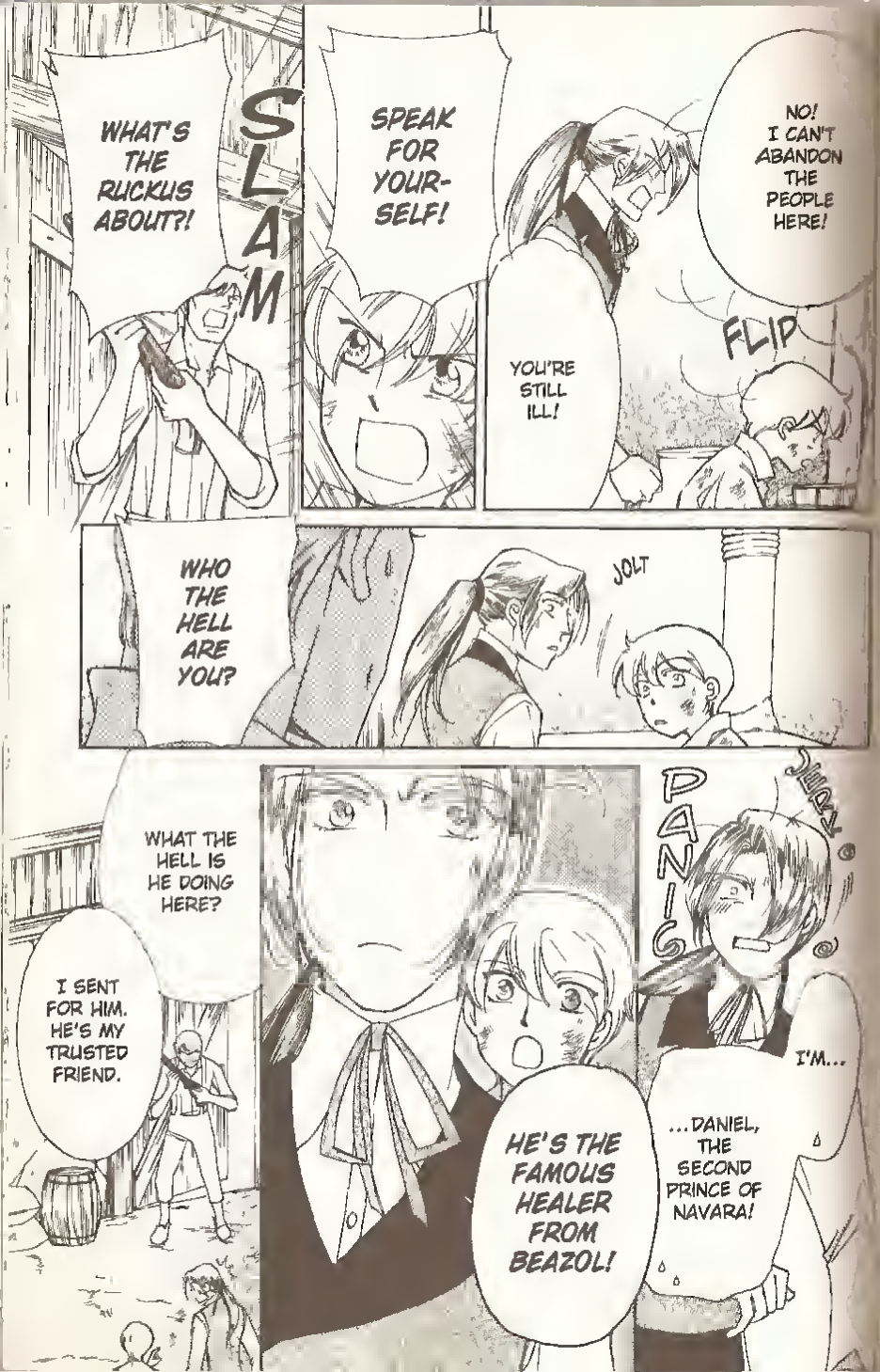

LADY CORDA.
WE'LL BE DONE BY TOMORROW MORNING.
TONIGHT, YOU MUST LEAVE AND RETURN TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY.

I'M FINE, YOUR MAJESTY.
I WAS PREPARING YOUR INCENSE.
CORDA, WHERE WERE YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I WANTED TO MAKE A SPECIAL INCENSE TO GIVE YOUR MAJESTY EVERLASTING PEACE...
FATHER ...
I WILL AGREE TO THE MARRIAGE WITH PRINCE LORCA.
ARGENT, IF THAT'S YOUR ANSWER, THEN I'LL GO THROUGH WITH THIS.

INFREE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ARE YOU AND CORDA SPIES FROM ANOTHER KINGDOM?
!
COR... DA...
THUD
LADY CORDA!
HE'LL REMAIN UNCONSCIOUS FOR A FEW HOURS. THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL UNNECES-SARILY.


EXCUSE ME!
FATHER?
SLAM
FATHER!
WHAT... HAPPENED!
CORDA! WHERE'S CORDA!!
HIS DEATH...
THIS WAS NOT NATURAL.
THIS HEAVY, CON-STRICTING FRAGRANCE
...

YOUR MAJESTY!
FATHER, THE KING OF BEAZOL IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
I WOULD LIKE YOUR PERMISSION FOR MY DAUGHTER TO MARRY YOUR SON, LORCA, THE THIRD PRINCE OF NAVARA.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDENESS. HOWEVER, WE MUST REPORT TO YOU RIGHT AWAY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJEC-TIONS, PRINCE ADONA?
WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS, KING OF BEAZOL.
WE'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO OBJECT.
WE MUST SPEAK TO THE KING OF NAVARA IMMEDIATELY.


WHAT'S THE RUCKUS ABOUT?!
SLAM
SPEAK FOR YOUR-SELF!
NO! I CAN'T ABANDON THE PEOPLE HERE!
FLIP
YOU'RE STILL ILL!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
JOLT
WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?
I SENT FOR HIM. HE'S MY TRUSTED FRIEND.
HE'S THE FAMOUS HEALER FROM BEAZOL!
PANIC
I'M...
...DANIEL, THE SECOND PRINCE OF NAVARA!

WAS HE ASSASSI-NATED BY A BASILISK?
THUNK
UGH!
ARGENT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU.
LORCA! PRINCE LORCA!
MY TOXICITY'S BACK.
I'LL DO THE REST. YOU HAVE TO ESCAPE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
YOUR OLDEST BROTHER IS GOING TO SEND AN ARMY TO QUELL THE REBEL-LION.
I'M MAKING CHARCOAL. ARGENT, THIS IS PERFECT! HELP ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I RECOVERED AFTER HE TREATED ME.
I DO FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.
THIS CHARCOAL HELPS ABSORB TOXINS FROM YOUR BODY.
THE DISEASE IS THE RESULT OF THE PESTICIDES WE'VE BEEN USING.
IF YOU STOP USING THE POISON AND ALLOW THE SOIL AND BODY TO REST, WE'LL GET BETTER.
YOUR COMPLEXION LOOKS BETTER.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
WE'LL BE FINE! EVERYONE! I HAVE AN IDEA!

TUG
IS HE THE ONE WE'VE HEARD ABOUT?
THE GUY THAT CAN CURE EVERYTHING?
AS PROOF, TAKE A LOOK.
HE HAS SILVER HAIR! IT'S NOT GRAY!
SIGH
HE SMELLS GOOD!
I HEARD HE WAS LIKE AN ELFIN KING!
THEY WERE RIGHT, HE'S GORGEOUS!
I CAN GUARANTEE HIS SKILL.
DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY HIS MEDICINE?
UBELLA'S RUMORS HAVE SPREAD THIS FAR...

NO YOU WON'T! LISTEN TO ME!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!
IF PEOPLE CONTINUE TO GET TREATMENT, THEY--
COMPLETE RECOVERY IS HARD. IT ALSO TAKES TIME.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIS LIES!
THE KING TRIED TO NEGLECT US TO DEATH! HOW CAN WE TRUST HIS SON?!
LORCA!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
BOOM
TH....
...EN...
LORCA!
SLUMP
I FIGURED I WOULD ALLOW A PASSENGER TO ESCAPE FROM THIS SINKING SHIP...
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T NEED TO.
THE LIAR !!!
SEE! HE'S NOT CURED YET!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WE FEEL ALIVE BECAUSE LIFE IS FINITE.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL SEE TOMORROW.
WE ALL DIE SOONER OR LATER.
I PROMISE AS THE THIRD PRINCE OF NAVARA ...
...I WILL PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY!
GOD BLESS PRINCE LORCA!
YOUR BROTHERS HEARD YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.

INFREE!
INFREE, WHY?!
WHY? I... DON'T KNOW.
I SHOULD HAVE NEVER TAKEN YOU OUT OF THE CASTLE.
...BY THE PRINCE.
I THINK THE THIEF MAY HAVE HAD HIS HEART STOLEN...
INFREE! INFREE!!
HE'S GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT POLITICIAN.
SOMEDAY.
ARGENT, PLEASE MAKE SURE LORCA LIVES...

YES, SIR.
BE SURE NOT TO LEAVE A SINGLE BONE INTACT.
FLASH
FATHER ...
MY FATHER DIED OF AN ILLNESS.
A WOMAN NAMED CORDA NEVER EXISTED AT THE CASTLE.
PRINCE ADONA, THIS IS FOR YOUR FATHER'S LEGACY AS THE KING OF NAVARA.
THE ONLY TRAITOR WAS LORCA'S BODYGUARD.

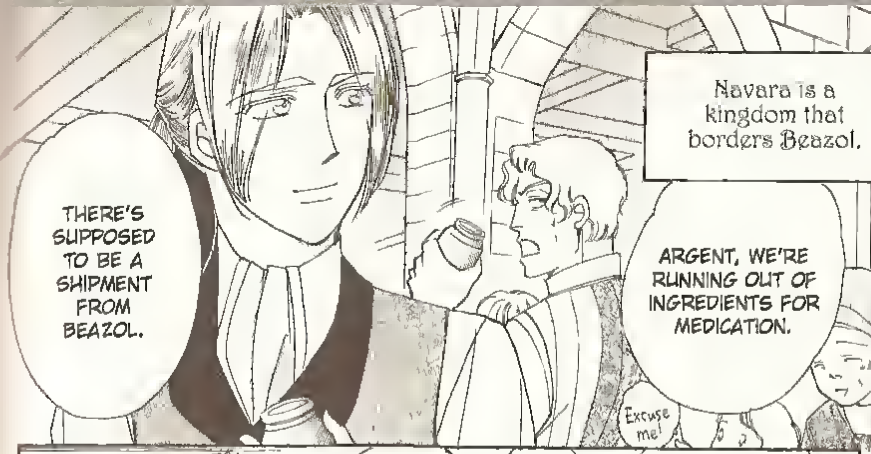
I, ADONA, THE FIRST PRINCE OF NAVARA, AM THE NEW KING AS OF THIS MORNING.
INMATES WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE PALACE AND TREATED.
THE ALLIANCE FORGED THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT OF PRINCE LORCA AND LADY PRIMULA OF BEAZOL...
WILL BEGIN AN ERA OF PEACE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.
PRINCE LORCA...
TO LADY PRIMULA?
ENGAGEMENT?
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT.
Rp 15/ The End

I'M LEAVING YOU IN CONTROL OF THE DETAILS.
THE WEDDING WILL FOLLOW THE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCE-MENT NEXT WEEK.
PLEASE, DON'T BE TOO HARSH WITH ME.
IT'S BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU, MY LADY.
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY.

Apothecarius Argentum

Recipe 16 • Dawn in Navara

NO, HE'S RECOVERED COMPLETELY.
WHERE'S PRINCE LORCA? IS HE SICK AGAIN?
WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME.
WE NEED TO START WITH THE GOWNS RIGHT AWAY.


Navara is a kingdom that borders Beazol.
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SHIPMENT FROM BEAZOL.
ARGENT, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF INGREDIENTS FOR MEDICATION.
Excuse me!

PLEASE TELL ME THAT'S A DUMB RUMOR!
IS IT TRUE THAT LADY PRIMULA'S MARRYING THE THIRD PRINCE OF NAVARA?
SODA, CAN YOU RESTOCK MEDICA-TION?
THERE YOU ARE!
IT'S THE TRUTH.
THAT CAN WAIT!

HE'S THE ONE INFAMOUS FOR HIS BEAUTY AND SEDUCTIVE WAYS...
DANIEL THE SECOND PRINCE?
DANIEL?
OH, BROTHER DANIEL!
THAT'S PERFECT! I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
I'LL HELP HER WITH HER DANCING.
ADONA WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU.
BLUSH
LADY UBELLA.
I HOPE I'M NOT BEING RUDE...
...BUT IT FEELS LIKE MONTHS AGO.
IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW WEEKS ...
EVERY-THING CHANGED WITHIN A DAY.
THAT'S NOT A GOOD COLOR ON YOU.
NEXT!
...HE'S TAKING CARE OF THINGS AROUND THE CASTLE.
HE'S GONE THROUGH A LOT, BUT...
THERE'S ALSO GOING TO BE A BALL. YOU CAN TRY AND MAKE THE MOVE ON CARBEAU!
BESIDES, YOU WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE A PRINCESS, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ALL THIS FOR ME.
BALL? IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T DANCE!
AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T HAVE MET PRINCESS PRIMULA WITHOUT YOU!
YOU'RE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF NAVARA. YOU HAVE TO BE PRESENT FOR THE SIGNING CEREMONY.
HOW DARE YOU! WHO SAID THAT!
YOU MAY BE TOO SHORT TO LEAD HER.
LATER
DON'T WORRY. I'LL HELP YOU PRACTICE.

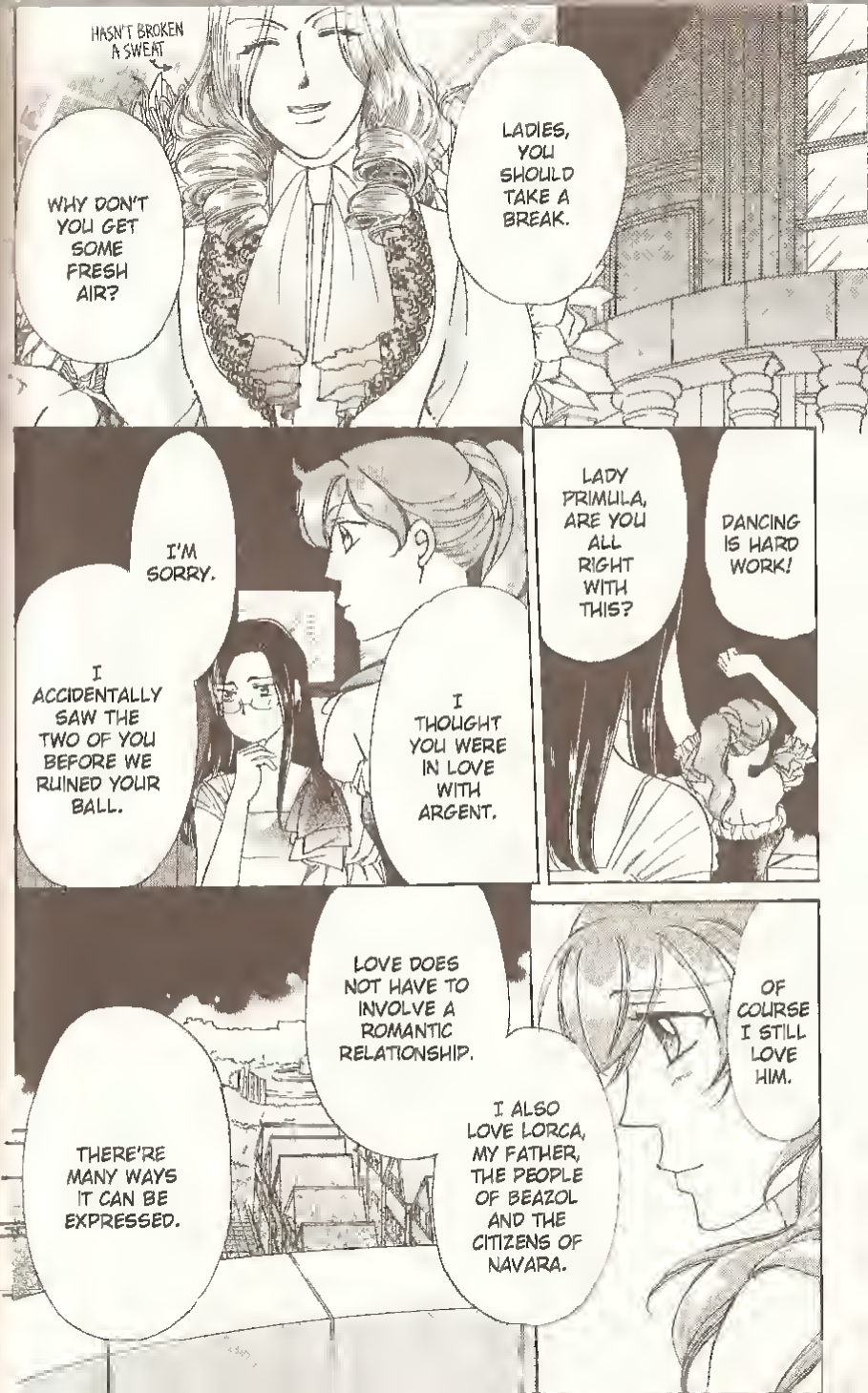
NOW, I JUST HOPE I CAN MOVE IN THIS GOWN.
YOU LOOK GORGEOUS!
MY BROTHER IS HELPING LIBELLA LEARN TO DANCE! WE SHOULD PRACTICE WITH THEM!
WAIT!
SOUNDS LIKE AN IDEA.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'M NOT SO SURE...
I HOPE YOU WILL LEAD ME WELL DURING THE DANCE!
IT'S STILL INCOMPLETE, BUT I WANTED YOUR OPINION.
HOW IS IT, LORCA?
DASH
DASH
DASH
WAIT, LORCA!
PRINCESS, THAT DRESS ISN'T DONE YET!

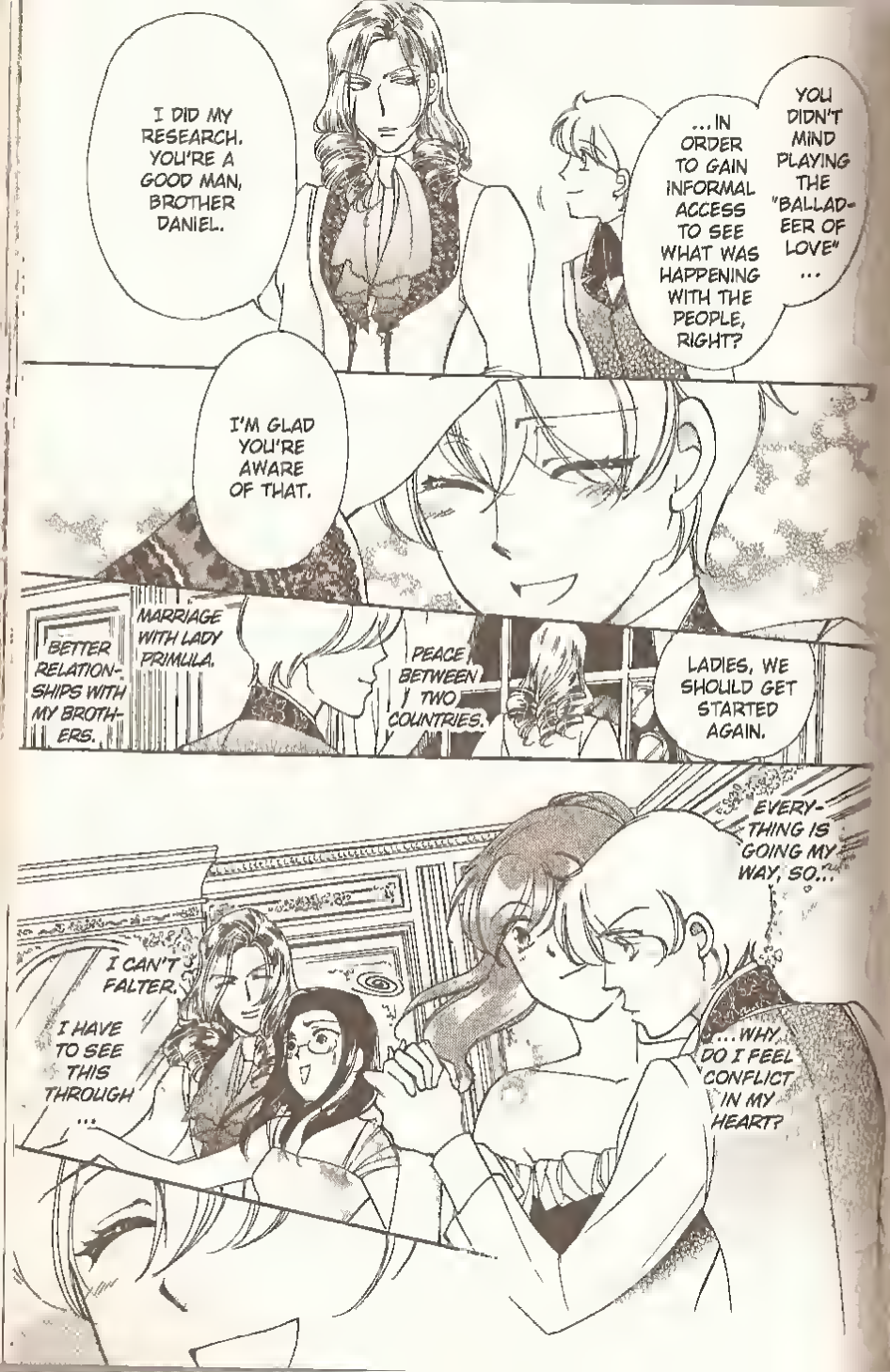
"I THINK THE THIEF MAY HAVE HAD HIS HEART STOLEN...
...BY THE PRINCE."
"WHY? I... DON'T KNOW."
"INFREE, WHY!!"
"DON'T LET THE PRINCE FOOL YOU!"
"WE'RE GOING TO DIE!"
"THE ALLIANCE FORGED THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT OF PRINCE LORCA AND LADY PRIMULA OF BEAZOL...
...WILL BEGIN AN ERA OF PEACE AND COOPERATION AMONG OUR COUNTRIES."
I, ADONA, THE FIRST PRINCE OF NAVARA, AM THE NEW KING AS OF THIS MORNING."
LORCA, LADY PRIMULA WANTS YOU TO SEE--
YOUR MAJESTY. WHAT IS IT
THEN ...
I HEARD MY FATHER DIED SUDDENLY FROM ILLNESS.
HIS BODY WAS DISPOSED OF QUICKLY AND IN SECRET.

I FORGOT ABOUT YOUR BULLET WOUND.
RELEASE
MASTER, YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ. LET ME SEE THE WOUND.
I shouldn't have said anything
WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT KIND OF DUMB MOVE DID YOU MAKE?
SODA, YOU'RE HURTING ME.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
...
HUH? MASTER?
I'VE ALWAYS TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE WHIPPED!
I'M GOING TO FIND A PRETTY WIFE AND BECOME INDEPENDENT.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I DON'T PLAN ON STAYING BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER.

LADY PRIMULA DOESN'T LOOK BACK.
IT SEEMS BOTH SHE AND ARGENT HAVE MADE UP THEIR MINDS.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?
SHE THINKS I'M AN INCOMPETENT, BROODING IDIOT.
BESIDES, SHE DOESN'T WANT ME.
WHAT?!
I'M JUST THE ROYAL APOTHECARY AND A BASILISK. I'M NOT A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IN EITHER CASE.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

YOU SHOULD PACE YOURSELF. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WELL FOR VERY LONG.
LORCA ...
IF YOU INSIST...
THANK YOU, INFREE.
WHY WAS HE...
...BURIED IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE IN MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
HE MAY HAVE BEEN A SPY, BUT HE DID SERVE YOU QUITE WELL.
I BELIEVE HE DID CARE ABOUT YOU IN THE END.
I'M SORRY, BROTHER. I...
I CAN'T BLAME YOU. YOU WERE CLOSER TO HIM THAN ANY OF US.


HASN'T BROKEN A SWEAT
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME FRESH AIR?
LADIES, YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK.
I'M SORRY.
I ACCIDENTALLY SAW THE TWO OF YOU BEFORE WE RUINED YOUR BALL.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH ARGENT.
LADY PRIMULA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?
DANCING IS HARD WORK!
LOVE DOES NOT HAVE TO INVOLVE A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.
THERE'RE MANY WAYS IT CAN BE EXPRESSED.
I ALSO LOVE LORCA, MY FATHER, THE PEOPLE OF BEAZOL AND THE CITIZENS OF NAVARA.
OF COURSE I STILL LOVE HIM.


I DID MY RESEARCH. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, BROTHER DANIEL.
...IN ORDER TO GAIN INFORMAL ACCESS TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITH THE PEOPLE, RIGHT?
YOU DIDN'T MIND PLAYING THE "BALLAD-EER OF LOVE" ...
I'M GLAD YOU'RE AWARE OF THAT.
BETTER RELATION-SHIPS WITH MY BROTH-ERS.
MARRIAGE WITH LADY PRIMULA.
PEACE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.
LADIES, WE SHOULD GET STARTED AGAIN.
EVERY-THING IS GOING MY WAY, SO...
I CAN'T FALTER.
I HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH ...
...WHY DO I FEEL CONFLICT IN MY HEART?

I'M SURE BROTHER ADONA FELT THE SAME WAY.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH A SICKLY BROTHER.
THAT'S A DECISION BETWEEN YOUR BROTHER AND KING OF BEAZOL.
I'M SORRY.
HE WAS A TRAITOR.
HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE RESPON-SIBLE FOR THE RIOTING AND CHAOS!
YOU COULD GET MARRIED ANYTIME, BROTHER DANIEL.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD MARRY BEFORE ME.
YOU SAY YOU CAN'T BE BOTHERED, BUT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE.
I THINK YOU JUST GENUINELY ENJOY THE COMPANY OF WOMEN.
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T BE BOTH-ERED.
BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO RUIN THE LIVES OF WOMEN LIKE OUR FATHER.

I HEAR HE EXECUTED HIS OWN FAMILY MEMBERS FOR TREACHERY.
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE BRUTAL. IT'S A POSSIBILITY.
THE KING DIED RIGHT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. SOMETHING'S ROTTEN.
DID YOU HEAR THE RUMOR THAT OUR KING WAS ASSASSINATED BY THE KING OF BEAZOL?
HEY! KEEP QUIET OVER THERE!
A WEDDING INSTEAD OF A PERIOD OF MOURNING?
THINGS ARE MOVING TOO FAST.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO GO OVER WELL REGARDLESS OF THE TRUTH.
RUMORS ARE SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE THINGS.
I KILLED THE KING OF NAVARA, EH?

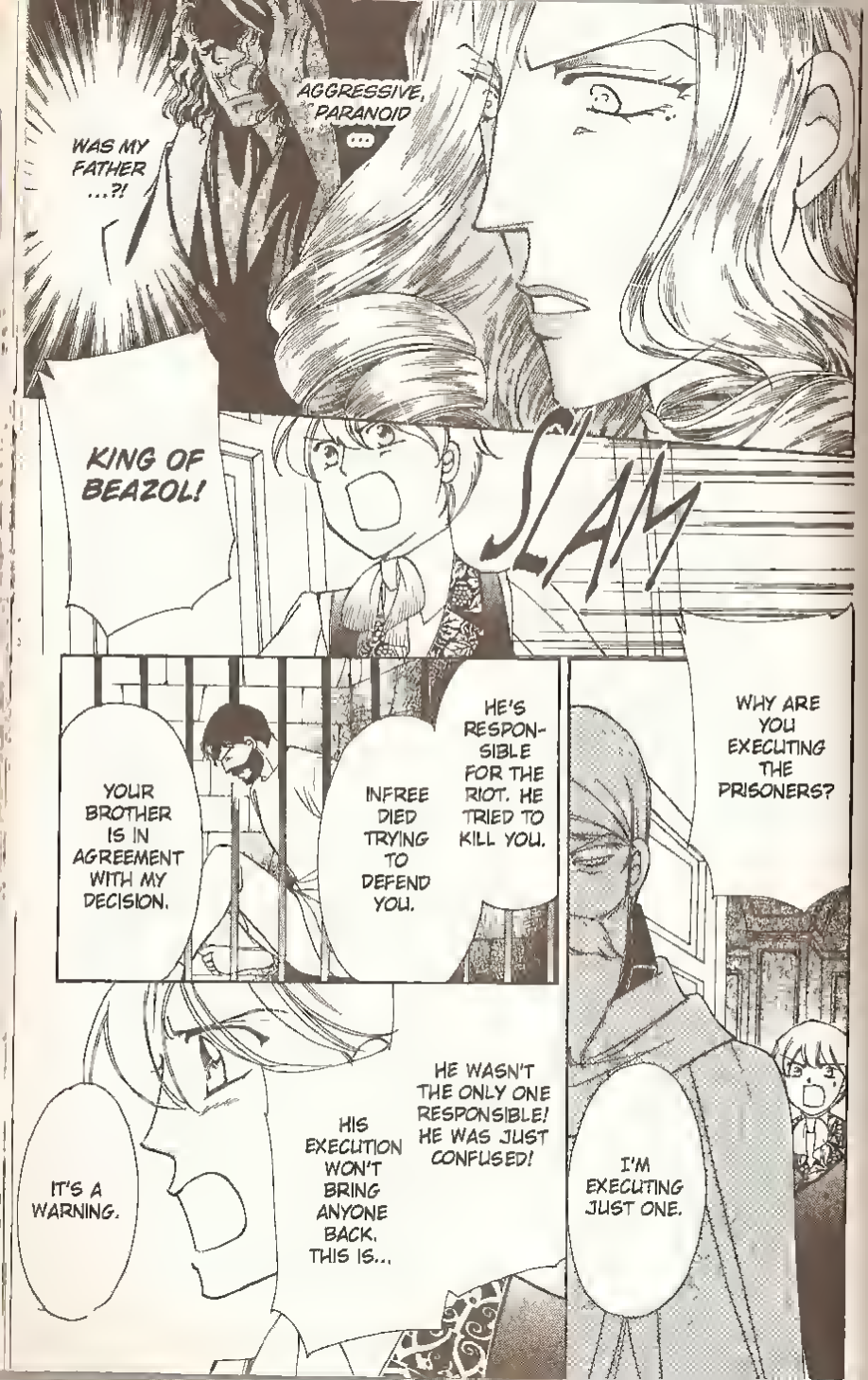
I PROMISED THAT I WOULD...
... PROTECT THIS COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.
THUD
GIVE UP OUR PROPERTY RIGHTS? YOU'RE GOING TO SEIZE OUR LAND?
WE'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO MOVE TO BEAZOL AND WORK THERE.
WHERE WILL WE GO?
YOUR LAND IS BARREN. THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO HOLD ONTO IT.
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN CONQUERED BY THEM.
THEY SAY THEY'RE HELPING US, BUT THE TERMS ARE DEFINITELY FAVORING BEAZOL.

I THINK I NEED TO GIVE THIS SITUATION ANOTHER PUSH.
"INFREE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"
"ARE YOU AND CORDA SPIES FROM ANOTHER KINGDOM?"
PUSH
...INFREE WAS NOT THE ONLY TRAITOR.
AS LORCA MENTIONED ...
I RAN INTO THEIR MEETING THAT NIGHT.
CORDA DRUGGED ME.
WHEN I WOKE UP, THE KING WAS DEAD AND, CORDA WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

KEEP A LOW PROFILE. IF YOU'RE CONSPICUOUS, SOMEONE MAY TRY TO KILL YOU AGAIN.
YOU'RE A RUTHLESS MAN.
I'M WORKING UNDER YOU FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THAT CAN CHANGE ANYTIME.
IT'LL SEND A MESSAGE OF FEAR TO OTHER BORDERING COUNTRIES.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
...YOU'LL BE A DEAD MAN.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...
RUMORS ARE BETTER THAN THE TRUTH...
MUST AVOID LETTING THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BASILISKS ...
...AND THEIR POWERS GET OUT.
I BELIEVE YOU.

I've gotten into a heap of problems because people thought I was you.
It upsets me to think that some people associate your appearance with my name.
WELL, EXCUSE ME.
IT'S JUST THAT I KEEP MISTAKING YOU FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
SPARK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE GREEN-HOUSE?
This one might be dramatic
ANOTHER RIVALRY...
...AND DEVELOP WHITE HAIR DUE TO YOUR WORK?
DO HERBALISTS OFTEN BECOME FRAGRANT ...
MASTER DOESN'T REALLY ASSOCIATE WITH OTHER APOTHECAR-IES.
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
IT SEEMS MOST PLANTS HERE ARE USED FOR THEIR FRA-GRANCE.
I'M LOOKING FOR HERBS TO USE AS MEDICATION.
THE PREVIOUS GARDENER USED TO CREATE INCENSE FROM THE PLANTS.

CORDA! IS THAT YOU?
A LIGHT PERFUME. ..
SILVER HAIR ...
PRINCE? YOU'RE LORCA'S BROTHER?
PRINCE DANIEL? MAY I HELP YOU?
WHY IS THAT, YOUR HIGH-NESS?
GRRR
GOD, YOUR SILVER HAIR IS ANNOYING!
YOU'RE THE APOTH-ECARY.


WAS MY FATHER ...?!
AGGRESSIVE, PARANOID ...
KING OF BEAZOL!
SLAM
YOUR BROTHER IS IN AGREEMENT WITH MY DECISION.
INFREE DIED TRYING TO DEFEND YOU.
HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RIOT. HE TRIED TO KILL YOU.
WHY ARE YOU EXECUTING THE PRISONERS?
IT'S A WARNING.
HIS EXECUTION WON'T BRING ANYONE BACK. THIS IS...
HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE! HE WAS JUST CONFUSED!
I'M EXECUTING JUST ONE.

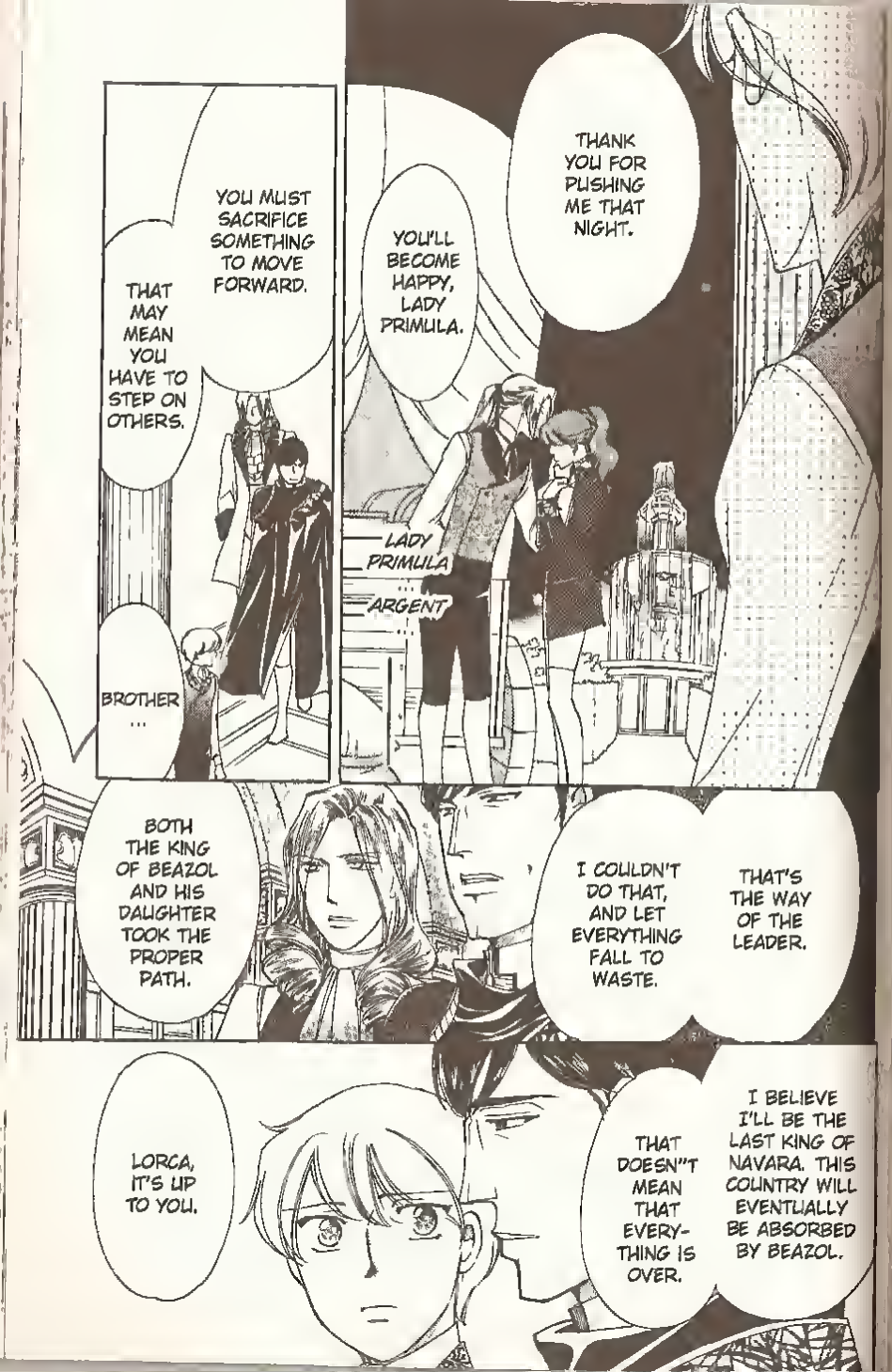
CAN YOU USE THIS AS INCENSE?
?
MASTER!
Smack
HE'S GLOOMY, SO HE DOESN'T HAVE FRIENDS.
WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS...
INCENSE TO HELP THE KING REST...
...PERSONALITY CHANGES.
...BURNING THE LEAVES AND FLOWERS CAN CAUSE A SEDATIVE STATE OF MIND.
MARIJUANA. IT'S USED FOR ITS STRONG FIBERS, BUT...
LONG TERM USE CAN CAUSE AGGRESSION, PARANOIA, AND...

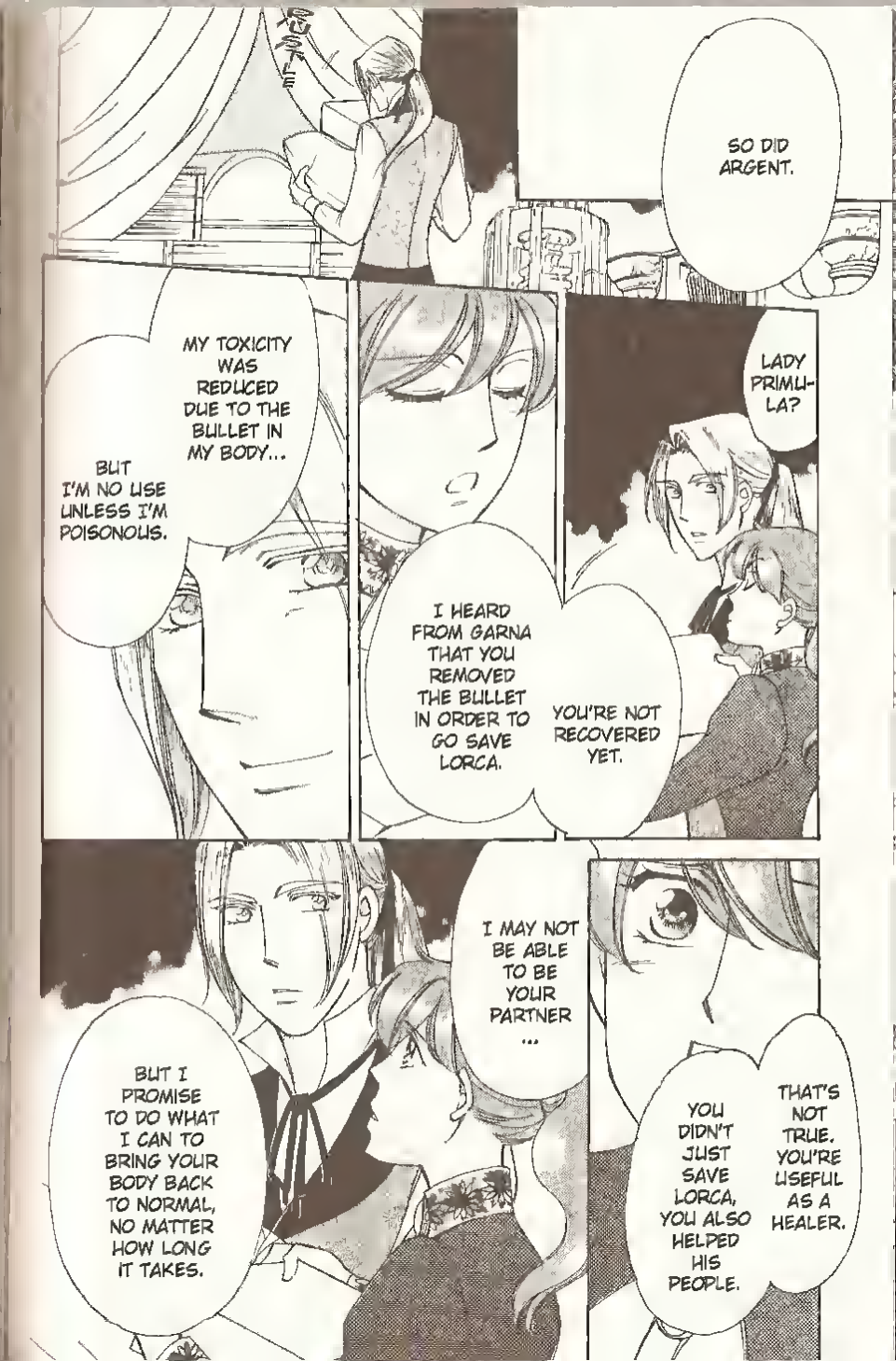
THE WHEEL HAS BEGUN TO TURN. THIS IS JUST THE SHORTEST PATH.
WHAT WILL THE TRUTH DO AT THIS POINT?
TELL ME THE TRUTH!!
DON'T FORGET...
...I CAN HALT MY KINGDOM'S ASSISTANCE AT ANY TIME.
LOST?
WHY DIDN'T I SEE THIS...
THAT'S A RUDE THING TO SAY. THIS WAS A BET.
YOU LOST. THAT'S ALL.
IS THAT ...
...A THREAT?

BUT--!
DO YOU WANT A SCAPEGOAT SO THAT...
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT BOTH THIS MAN AND INFREE'S BODIES WON'T BE ON PUBLIC DISPLAY!
A KING MUST BE RUTHLESS TO DEMAND OBEDIENCE FROM HIS PEOPLE!
KTZ
KTZ
BROTHER, OUR FATHER WAS MURDERED BY CORDA, RIGHT?
SHE DROVE HIM TO MADNESS, RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT?
WHY DID YOU COVER THIS UP? WHO IS THAT WOMAN?
...PEOPLE WILL NOT DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR FATHER'S DEATH?

HIS MAJESTY IS CORRECT. YOU'RE STILL A DUMB CHILD.
YOU CAN'T THINK PAST YOUR OWN NOSE.
LORCA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANT!
I...
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU THINK THE PRINCESS MADE THE SACRIFICE?
"IF LORCA IS A WORTHY PRINCE, THE KING OF NAVARA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PEACE TREATY."
"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROTECT LORCA."
"YOU CAN MARRY HIM TO FACILITATE A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES."
YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT THAT NIGHT, SHE MADE A DEAL WITH HER FATHER.

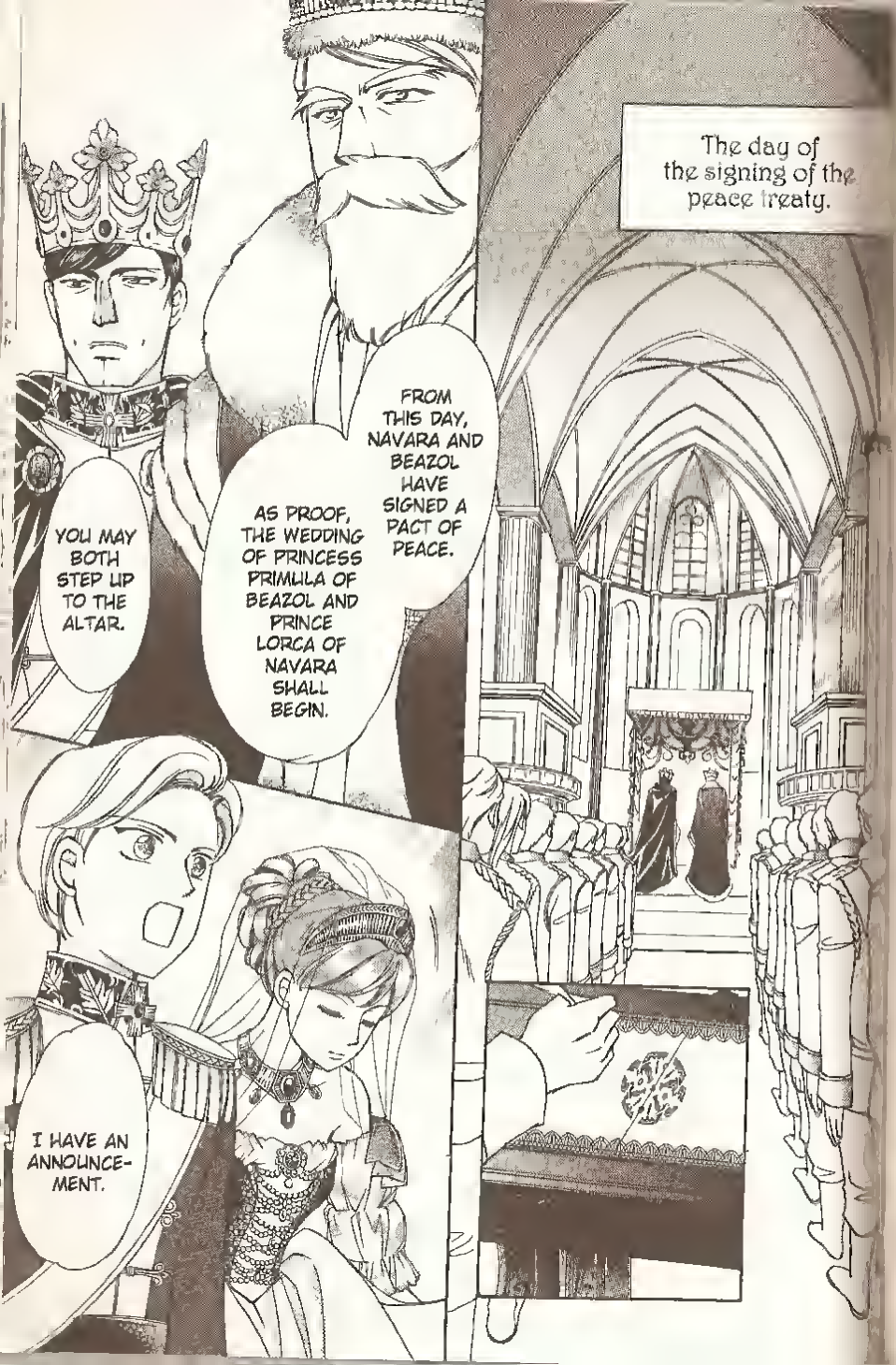
I FELL FOR HIS TRAP FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
THIS WAS A STEALTH TAKEOVER!
THUD
YOU...
...BASTARD!!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CHILD.
YOU COULDN'T THREATEN ME FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS.


THANK YOU FOR PUSHING ME THAT NIGHT.
YOU'LL BECOME HAPPY, LADY PRIMULA.
LADY PRIMULA ... ARGENT
YOU MUST SACRIFICE SOMETHING TO MOVE FORWARD.
THAT MAY MEAN YOU HAVE TO STEP ON OTHERS.
BROTHER ...
BOTH THE KING OF BEAZOL AND HIS DAUGHTER TOOK THE PROPER PATH.
I COULDN'T DO THAT, AND LET EVERYTHING FALL TO WASTE.
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE LEADER.
LORCA, IT'S UP TO YOU.
THAT DOESN"T MEAN THAT EVERY-THING IS OVER.
I BELIEVE I'LL BE THE LAST KING OF NAVARA. THIS COUNTRY WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABSORBED BY BEAZOL.


SO DID ARGENT.
LADY PRIMU-LA?
MY TOXICITY WAS REDUCED DUE TO THE BULLET IN MY BODY...
BUT I'M NO USE UNLESS I'M POISONOUS.
I HEARD FROM GARNA THAT YOU REMOVED THE BULLET IN ORDER TO GO SAVE LORCA.
YOU'RE NOT RECOVERED YET.
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BE YOUR PARTNER ...
BUT I PROMISE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO BRING YOUR BODY BACK TO NORMAL, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.
YOU DIDN'T JUST SAVE LORCA, YOU ALSO HELPED HIS PEOPLE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU'RE USEFUL AS A HEALER.

BROTHER DANIEL!
A VILLAIN ...
THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD.
YOU SAID I COULD ASK YOU IF I WANTED TO READ BOOKS!
MAY I BORROW THE KEY TO THE LIBRARY?
DON'T LOSE IT!
THANKS, DANIEL!
HUUUUH?
DANIEL?

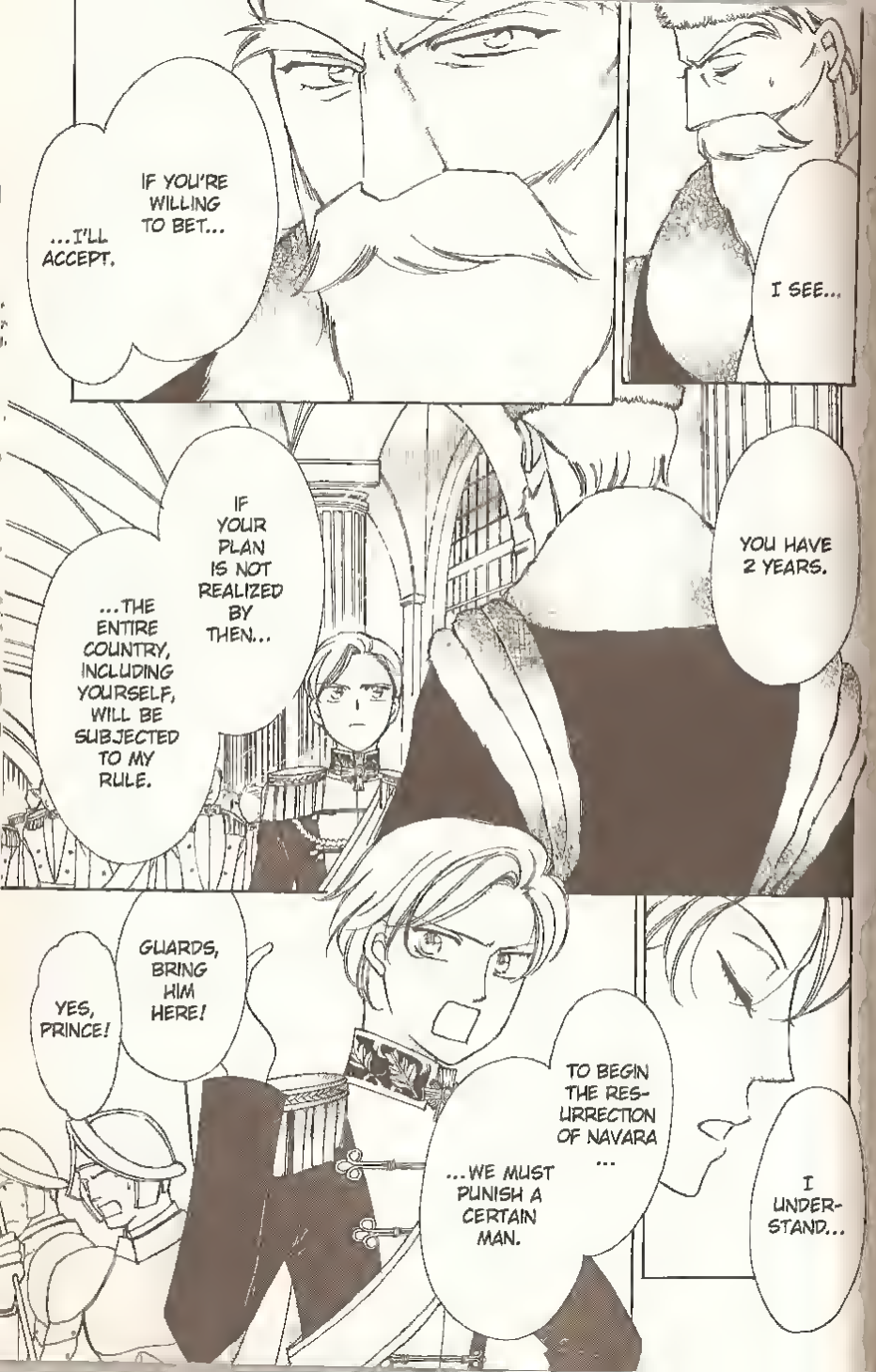
INFREE, I'M SORRY.
ONE DAY, I'LL CLEAR YOUR NAME.
UNTIL THAT DAY COMES, I HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.
DON'T BOTHER. I'M A FORMER THIEF.
A BAD REPUTATION IS THE CROWNING GLORY OF A VILLAIN...
THAT WILL MAKE UP FOR EVERYONE'S SACRIFICES.
YOU CAN CONTINUE OUR HISTORY AND WILL.


The day of the signing of the peace treaty.
FROM THIS DAY, NAVARA AND BEAZOL HAVE SIGNED A PACT OF PEACE.
AS PROOF, THE WEDDING OF PRINCESS PRIMULA OF BEAZOL AND PRINCE LORCA OF NAVARA SHALL BEGIN.
YOU MAY BOTH STEP UP TO THE ALTAR.
I HAVE AN ANNOUNCE-MENT.

LORCA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST LOOKING UP THINGS.
I ALMOST FORGOT!
LIBELLA, YOUR FAMILY TENDS A PEAR ORCHARD! DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CITRUS VARIETIES?
SURE?

I AM PLANNING TO INTRODUCE AN INDUSTRY THAT USES INSECTS.
THE COCHINEAL BUG ATTACKS CITRUS TREES.
I'VE ALSO DISCOVERED PAINT CAN BE MADE FROM THE BARK EXTRACT.
ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, A BRILLIANT RED DYE CAN BE CREATED FROM THE FEMALE BUGS.
IT CAN BE USED TO DYE FABRIC AND COSMETICS, AND CAN COMMAND A HIGH PRICE!
I PLAN ON CULTIVATING THE COCHINEAL BUG...
...AND TURN THE RESULTING DYE INTO NAVARA'S SPECIALTY!

LORCA! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
THIS IS NOT BECAUSE I DO NOT LOVE LADY PRIMULA.
WE ARE BOTH CHILDREN, AND TOO INEXPERIENCED.
I WOULD LIKE TO CANCEL ...
...THE ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE.
I BELIEVE I SHOULD GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE AS A LEADER!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?
I HAVE A PLAN TO RESURRECT NAVARA.
UNLIKE BEAZOL, NAVARA HAS UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER THAT IS PRONE TO PESTILENCE.
AS A RESULT, WE HAD TO DEPEND ON PESTICIDES.

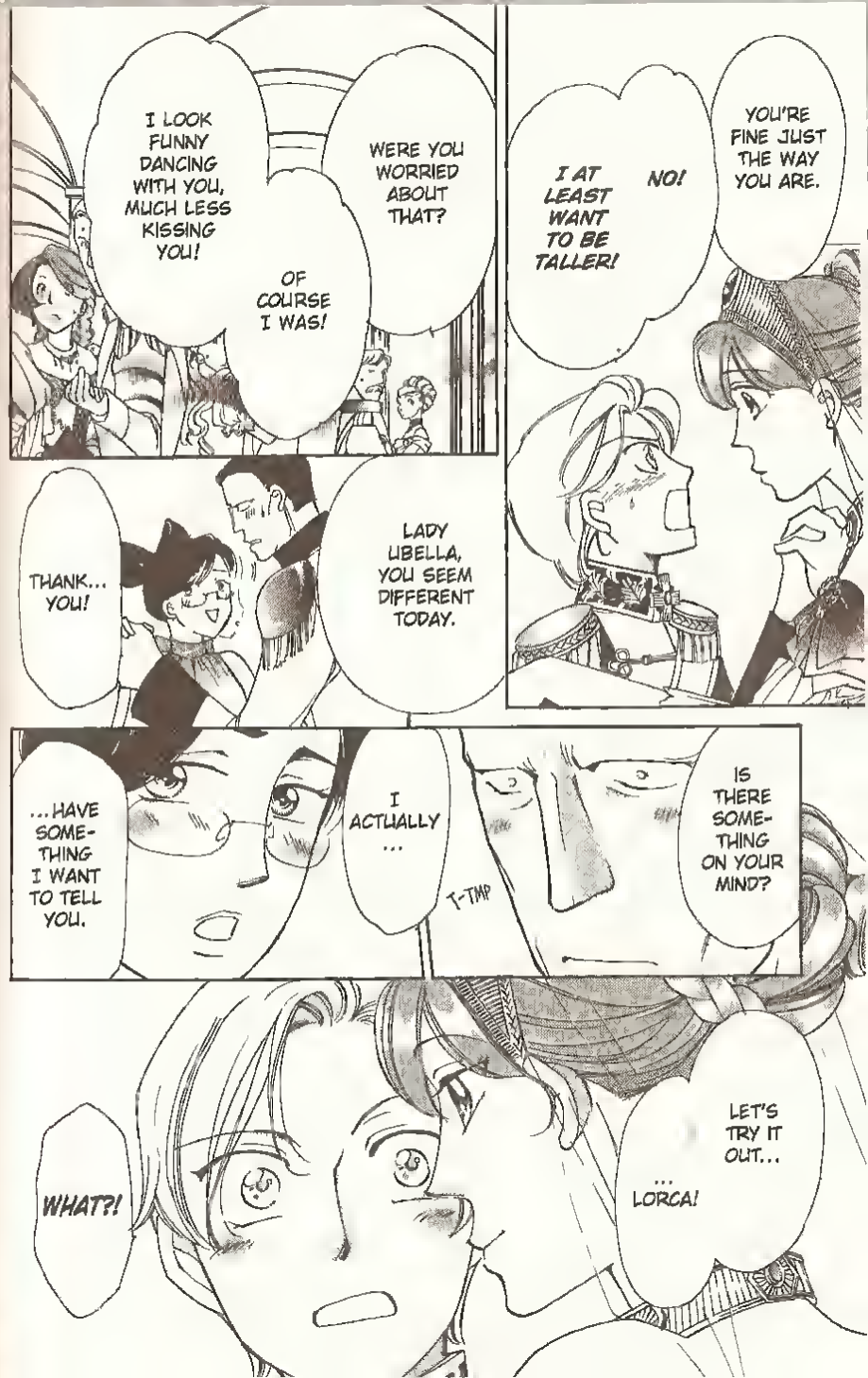

...I'LL ACCEPT.
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO BET...
I SEE...
YOU HAVE 2 YEARS.
...THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, INCLUDING YOURSELF, WILL BE SUBJECTED TO MY RULE.
IF YOUR PLAN IS NOT REALIZED BY THEN...
YES, PRINCE!
GUARDS, BRING HIM HERE!
...WE MUST PUNISH A CERTAIN MAN.
TO BEGIN THE RES-URRECTION OF NAVARA ...
I UNDER-STAND...

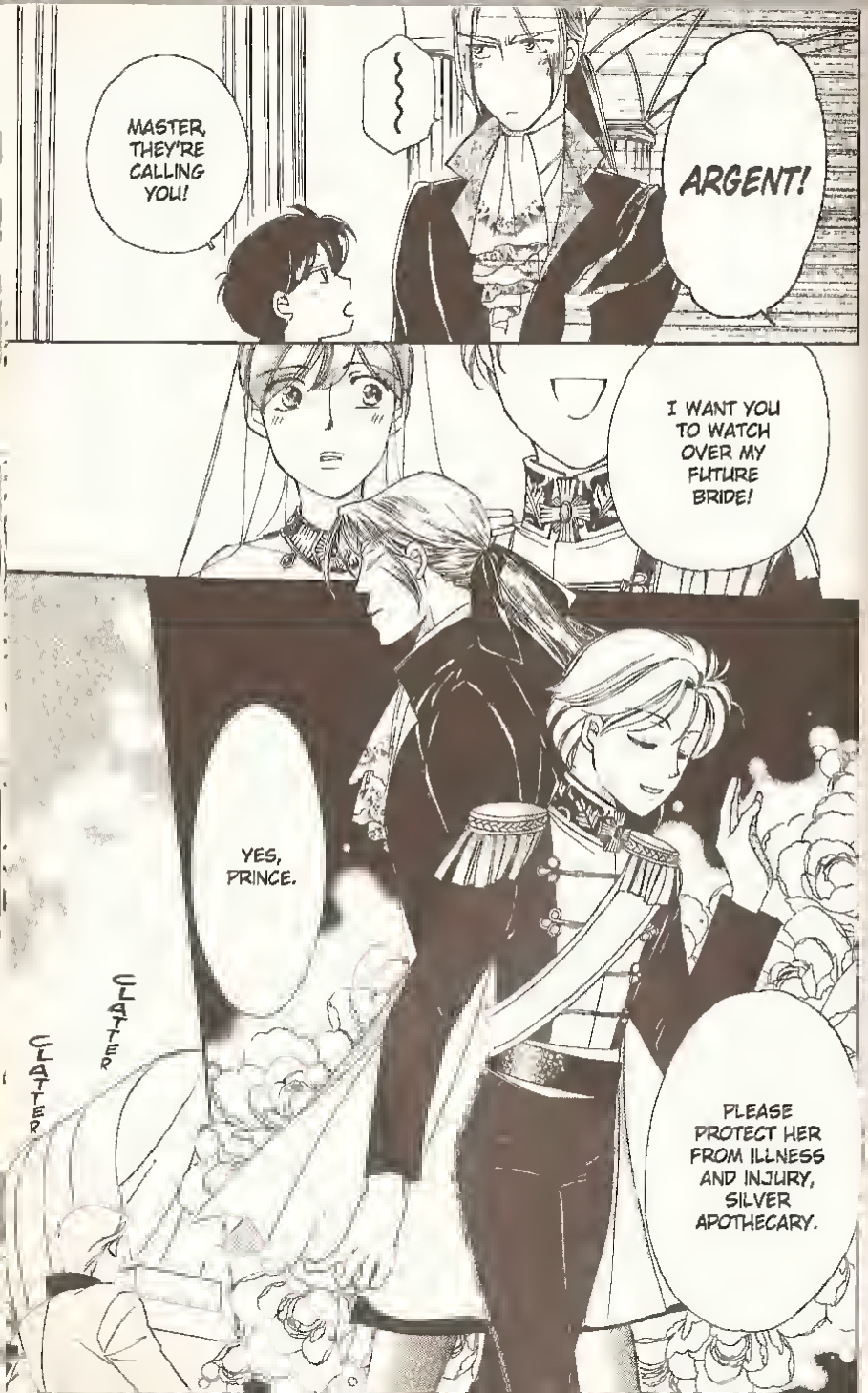
MURMUR
MURMUR
...BE EXECUTED UNLESS THE LEADER KNOWS INSECTS AS WELL AS NAVARA'S GEOGRAPHY.
THIS PLAN CANNOT ...
WE WILL NEED EXTENDED AID FROM BEAZOL.
OF COURSE, SUCCESS ISN'T GUARANTEED.
SLAP
...IF SHE FINDS A MORE SUITABLE PARTNER.
IF MY PLAN SUCCEEDS, BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BENEFIT. MEANWHILE, THE PRINCESS IS FREE TO MARRY SOMEONE ELSE...
YOUR MAJESTY, IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS...
...THAT WOULD BENEFIT NAVARA, I'D LOVE TO HEAR THEM!

YES, PRINCE!
THERE'S SO MUCH SACRIFICE THAT ONE CAN'T EVEN SEE.
SOMETIMES, DEATH IS AN EASIER PATH.
LORCA ...
I'M GOING TO BECOME A MAN WORTHY OF YOUR HAND IN 2 YEARS.
I PROMISE, I WON'T DIE.
IT'S HARD TO LET PEOPLE LIVE, BUT IT'S ALSO HARD TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
THIS IS DISAPPOINTING.
I WAS READY TO BE YOUR WIFE.

YOU'LL BE PUNISHED IMMEDIATELY!
YOU FAILED AND KILLED MY BODYGUARD.
YOU TRIED TO MURDER ME, THE PRINCE OF NAVARA.
PRINCE?!
SLIT
DEATH IS AN EASY ESCAPE.
I DID NOT FORGIVE YOU.
...FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO DIE UNLESS I SAY SO!
I DEMAND THAT YOU STAY ALIVE AND PAY ME BACK...

LADY PRIMULA ...?
I'M SORRY, SIR CARBEAU!
I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU, BUT I MUST DANCE WITH SOMEONE ONE MORE TIME!
THUD
THUD
WH
Y...
O
4
I'M SO SORRY! I SWEAR!
YOU KLUTZ!
GRAB
LADY UBELLA ...


I LOOK FUNNY DANCING WITH YOU, MUCH LESS KISSING YOU!
WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT?
OF COURSE I WAS!
I AT LEAST WANT TO BE TALLER!
NO!
YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
THANK... YOU!
LADY UBELLA, YOU SEEM DIFFERENT TODAY.
...HAVE SOME-THING I WANT TO TELL YOU.
I ACTUALLY ...
T-TMP
IS THERE SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?
WHAT?!
LET'S TRY IT OUT...
... LORCA!


MASTER, THEY'RE CALLING YOU!
ARGENT!
I WANT YOU TO WATCH OVER MY FUTURE BRIDE!
YES, PRINCE.
CLATTER
CLATTER
PLEASE PROTECT HER FROM ILLNESS AND INJURY, SILVER APOTHECARY.

WILL YOU DANCE WITH ME ONE MORE TIME?
I'D BE HON-ORED.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PRINCE DANIEL, THE BALLADEER OF LOVE!
WELL THE FACT THAT SHE COULD ACT ON IT IS AN IMPROVE-MENT...
NOW SHE'S GOT A CRUSH ON MY BROTHER.
U... UBELLA?
WE SHOULD CALL HIM OVER.
SOMEONE'S BEEN GLARING AT ME ALL NIGHT.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FINE.
MY LADY?

THANK YOU, PRINCE LORCA!
SEE YOU AGAIN!
MASTER, QUICK!
THANK YOU, LORCA, PRINCE DANIEL!
I MUST TEACH LORCA TO CLEAN UP AFTER HIMSELF.
KTZ
FINALLY ...
LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S READING ABOUT...
I CAN NAP IN PEACE.

IT'S A SECRET BOOK BELONGING TO MY BROTHER.
?
ARGENT, THIS IS FOR YOU.
PRINCE LORCA, BEAZOL WILL ALWAYS WELCOME YOU.
THANK YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A SECRET BETWEEN MEN.
THIS IS MINE!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A BOOK ABOUT BASILISKS.
YOU SHOULD GET YOUR BODY BACK TO NORMAL. THAT WAY WE CAN CHALLENGE EACH OTHER FOR REAL.
THAT'S WHY I GAVE YOU MORE TIME.
CREEP!
LORCA!
HUFF
TAKE A LOOK.

INFORMATION ON HERBS AND POISONS FEATURED IN THIS VOLUME AND AFTERWARDS

I hope you enjoyed this volume! Thanks to your support, the Navara episodes are over. We'll be diving into a whole new part of the story starting with the next Chapter, but Lorca and Prince Daniel will be appearing in future chapters. I used Johnny Depp as an inspiration for Daniel, but he ended up completely different. During volume 4, I had received a lot of help from M, I, S, O, F and also Ichinose-Sensei. I'd like to thank everyone for their help! I need to keep working hard on my illustrations and stories!

2006 June Tomomi Yamashita

Dandelion
Taraxacum officinale

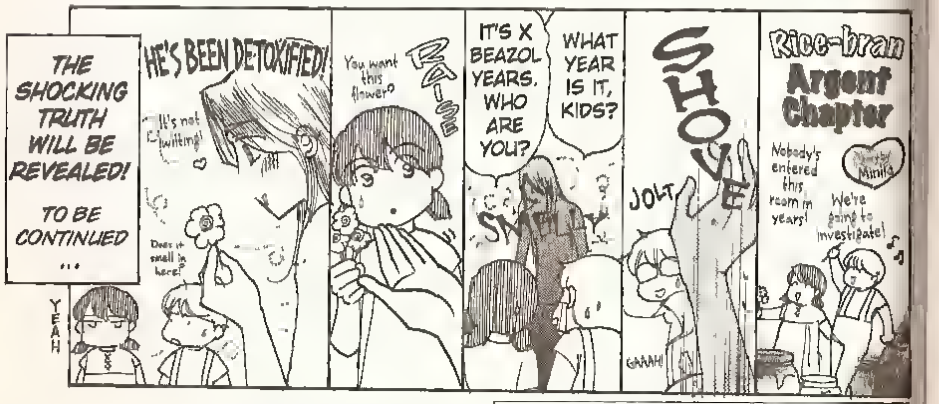
The Latin name Taraxacum is derived from greek words for pain and relief. The dandelion has been used as a medicinal plant since ancient times for its detoxifying and diuretic properties. It's also been used as a tonic for the digestive system and to treat mastitis. The leaves have been eaten in salads as food, and the roots are used as a coffee alternative (non-caffeinated).

Cochineal
Dactylopius coccus

Cochineal was used in ancient Inca to dye fabric and ornaments. It does not produce brilliant colors, but the shade of red changes depending on the ph of the dye bath. It's very resistant to fading from light and heat. It's also a very safe product. As a result, it is used as a cosmetic and pharmaceutical dye.

Cannabis Sativa

The fibers of the plant (hemp) can be used to produce fabric and paper. However, the leaves of the plant have psychoactive effects. As a result, its use goes back to the beginning of human history. The active component of the plant is called THC. Hashish is made from the resin of the flowers. Marijuana is the dried flowers of the plant. Apparently, the word marijuana is derived from a Portuguese word for addiction. Currently, many countries ban the use and sale of this plant.



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A COUNTRY IN THE EAST TURNS BABIES INTO BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS BY FEEDING THEM POISON UNTIL THEIR FLESH BECOMES POISONOUS. THEY ARE TRAINED IN THE POISONOUS ARTS TO BE USED AS ASSASSINS.
THEIR HAIR TURNS SILVER AND THEIR FLESH EMANATES A FLORAL FRAGRANCE DUE TO THEIR TOXIC DIET...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T NOTICE...
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
I NEED TO LAST 2 MORE YEARS...
SHOULD I CALL ARGENT OVER?
YOUR MAJESTY, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
BOTH CORDA AND THE APOTHECARY MUST BE THE POISONOUS, LEGENDARY BASILISKS!
CLOMP CLOMP
I'M FINE.
Rp 16/ The End
MORE TO COME!